

# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXVII

JANUARY 1999

NO. 1

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## COME, LET US ANEW

Come, let us anew our journey pursue—  
Roll round with the year, And never stand still till the Master appear;  
His adorable will let us gladly fulfill,  
And our talents improve  
By the patience of hope, and the labors of love,  
By the patience of hope, and the labors of love.

Our life is a dream; our time, as a stream,  
Glides swiftly away, And the fugitive moment refuses to stay;  
The arrow is flown; the moment is gone;  
The millennial year  
Rushes on to our view—and eternity's near,  
Rushes on to our view—and eternity's near.

O that each in the day of his coming may say:  
I have fought my way thro'; I have finished the work thou didst give  
me to do.

O that each from his Lord may hear the glad word:

"Well and faithfully done;

Enter into my joy, and sit down on my throne,

Enter into my joy, and sit down on my throne."

-Charles Wesley



## THE BEGINNING AND THE ENDING

As we begin this new year, we wonder what the year will bring. This is a year of transition. It will be strange to use 2000 as our current date, next year. Changes are coming. How will we meet those changes?

As we begin 1999, will we be so focused on the year 2000 that we will forget the possibilities of 1999? 1999 must be lived before we can experience 2000. How well prepared will we be if the Lord were to return in 1999, instead of 2000, as some have predicted? Would we have been so focused on 2000 that we had forgotten to live 1999 unto the Lord?

As we enter the new year, we have no idea what changes may be made in our individual lives, our country, or the Church by the end of the year. Since we have no promise of the morrow, what might happen in the next three hundred and sixty-five days? Just because we do not know what the year will bring, does not excuse us from living this year.

It is important that we make a good start in this new year. Our journey through the new year will be easier if we have made the right decisions before the year begins. If we have decided to please God this year, we will have a good start. Beginning the year outside of God's family will hinder us from the start. Having God with us will make us overcomers along the way.

At the end of the year we will look back and see what the jour-

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## JANUARY 1999

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ney had been. Will the end be as successful as we had hoped? Will the purpose of our journey be fulfilled? If we begin with the resolve that we will please Him, we will have a greater possibility of doing so than if we begin with no purpose at all in our lives.

The start may be good, but what we do throughout the course of the year will determine what the end will be. It is the middle of the way that will produce the final result. If the end is not to be with regrets and lamentations, we must continue to strive to fulfill our Heavenly Father's will in our lives, daily. To come to the end with this intent unfulfilled will mean that we have wasted our opportunity for this year. This means we have not continued to strive to do what we had set out to do.

The middle of the way does not have the excitement of the beginning or the ending of the journey. When we are ready to go on a journey, we make many preparations. There is an aura of excitement about getting ready. There is an effort to get everything finished up. There is a nervousness that we might forget something that is necessary. As the end of the journey draws closer we become excited. We anticipate who or what we will find at the end of the long journey. When we have diligently looked forward to what lies at the end, we become quite excited as we look forward to the people and scenes that await us.

In between the start and the finish, there may be many miles and some struggles. Some of the way may seem boring. There may be scenic views, but if we have our minds either on the excitement of the beginning or the anticipation of the ending we may not persist in the middle of the way. We often are lulled asleep as we travel, wishing we could finish the journey sooner.

Our journeys in life represent our Spiritual journey through our time on Earth. It is important that we begin the Spiritual journey with our decision to accept the Plan of Salvation that God has designed for our Spiritual well-being. Without this good start, we can not hope to make progress toward that Heavenly Home awaiting us at the end of the journey. Just as our travels may become boring or uninteresting, our Spiritual journey may present various temptations along the way. We may be tempted to go to sleep along the way because we are not alert to the possibilities, opportunities and re-

sponsibilities that we have along the way. We may be lulled to sleep by the enemy of our souls. He may lure us into activities that rob us of the time, money and effort that should be invested in His service. We may be rebellious. We may disregard the roadmap He has given us. Just as the traveler will become lost if he does not know his way, so we will be out of the way if we ignore His Word.

We want to have a successful journey that fulfills our hopes and His will for us. We want that mansion that He has promised and prepared for us.

As you look forward to the end of the journey, remember that 1999 is a part of the journey. It is a part of the middle of your way. Have a successful year and a successful journey toward your desired home in Heaven, where you can serve Him even better.

M. Cook

## **IN NEWNESS OF SPIRIT**

Romans 7:6, "But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."

As we once again enter a new year we again ponder what the future may hold. The fact that the year 2000 literally lies at our doorstep has caused much speculation and many prophetic forecasts. The forecast for a doomsday due to computer failures has been the topic of the past year for many religious and secular prophets.

The past few years have shown an increase in what is generally labeled liberal theology. At one time in history incidents that appeared to be linked with end time prophecy served to help fill the churches. In our age it seems the vast majority take the approach of living life to the fullness for tomorrow we die. It seems many in church leadership help to encourage this type of thinking instead of offering the multitudes an alternative. It appears as if the earthly church is looking more like the world as each year comes to an end. The acceptance of such things as attending Hollywood movies, having a television, using so called "christian rock" and other modern type music forms in worship services appears to be on the in-



crease.

But, some will argue, the Bible says that we are delivered from the law. We are no longer to be in bondage to church rules and regulations. The old religious taboos were only the thinking of men. It is time to do away with legalism. So say the modern religious crowd and leaders. Is this what the Apostle Paul is teaching?

We believe the Apostle Paul gives us a key to the newness of spirit that he is teaching in Romans 16:9, "I speak after the manner of man because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness."

It seems few wish to hear about righteousness anymore. Most appear to look at those who desire to live a life pleasing to God as "self-righteous." Separation from the world in dress and lifestyle is ridiculed in a large portion of church circles. The idea of holiness is, perhaps, even more ridiculed.

If the Apostle Paul was not teaching eliminating rules and regulations, what was he teaching? In the first place, there were some Old Testament teachings that Christians are no longer bound by. There are also some Old Testament principles that were for the nation of Israel that do not apply to the Church. There were those within the New Testament Church that argued that all of the Old Testament restrictions and commands were to be applied to the Church. This type of thinking caused problems throughout the history of the First Century Church.

Praise God, when we worship Jesus Christ in our daily lives it does give us true freedom in newness of spirit. We do not have to rely upon animal sacrifices to cover our sins but have the blood of Christ to wash them away. We do not have to rely upon the things of this world for pleasure but we can enjoy the peace and contentment that comes from obedience to God and His Word. God has provided His sheep with pastures of rich food and given them pure water for their thirst (spiritually speaking). Why do so many sheep seem to desire to get their nourishment at the slop trough with the swine?

We are persuaded that if the earthly church were to truly desire



to serve in newness of spirit much of the strife within the church would be taken care of. While there will always be divisions of doctrines and interpretations, we are persuaded that the greatest ill within the earthly church is a lack of respect for the Word of God.

Let us desire to go forth in newness of spirit. Should our Lord return, let Him find us faithful. Should He tarry, let us make 1999 a year to build one another up in newness of spirit.

Brother James M. Hite  
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## **SIXTY YEARS AGO**

January 1, 1939  
NEW YEAR MEDITATIONS  
L. W. Beery

"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good." (Job 7:6-7.) This statement came from the lips of a man "whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." (Job 1.) It is evident from his expressions that he was doing some serious thinking. He was meditating upon life and the experiences that it was bringing to him. All of us who are Bible readers are aware of the conditions that caused Job to make these disconsolate remarks. He was being sorely tried by Satan. The enemy of his soul was doing all in his power to bring about the downfall of this righteous man and cause him to turn against his Maker. His children and great earthly possessions had been taken from him, great affliction of the body was upon him, the companion of his bosom turned against him and tried to get him to "curse God, and die," and his friends were chiding him grievously. Because of this he could not refrain from crying out in the anguish of his spirit, and the bitterness of his soul. In spite of this we are told, "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." (Job 1:22.)

There are none of us that have ever passed through what Job did yet we do all have our sorrows and tribulations. Especially is this true of those who fear God, eschew evil and try to live upright

lives. The same Satan that tempted Job so sorely is doing all in his power to bring about the downfall of God-fearing people in the days in which we live. No doubt most of those who read these lines have passed through some very trying times in the past year. In these hours of grief and great distress we are made to think seriously and meditate upon life and what we are experiencing. No doubt most of us have had hours when we could not refrain from crying out in anguish because of the hopelessness which enveloped us at the time, yet through the mercies of God, His sustaining grace, His keeping power, we were able through the avenue of prayer to come through victorious and maintain our integrity in the sight of God and man. If this has been our experience we cannot but close this dying year with rejoicing. These tribulations, these hours of grief, these agonizing experiences that all but crush us are but the refiner's fire to purge out the dross and make us better qualified for our Master's service. Praise God who is able to save us to the uttermost who come unto Him through Jesus Christ our Lord!

In line with the meditations of Job it is indeed startling how swiftly our days are passing by. So soon, the year of our Lord nineteen hundred thirty eight has passed beyond our realm and it's records are sealed unto the day of judgment. These hours, these days, these years are precious and will some day reveal before a just God what we have been. This judgment day which is so swiftly approaching is one of the inevitable realities that we must make provision for if we would have a clear conscience and be able to face the future with hope and joyful expectation. Life is indeed too uncertain and the dangers of an eternity of torment and woe too real to delay making peace with our God.

Delay not, delay not, O sinner, draw near,  
The waters of life are now flowing for thee;  
No price is demanded, the Savior is here;  
Redemption is purchased, salvation is free.

Delay not, delay not, O sinner, to come,  
For mercy still lingers and calls thee today;  
Her voice is not heard in the vale of the tomb;  
Her message unheeded will soon pass away.

Delay not, delay not, the Spirit of Grace,  
Long grieved and resisted, may take his sad flight,  
And leave thee in darkness to finish thy race,  
To sing in the gloom of eternity's night.

Delay not, delay not, the hour is at hand,  
The earth shall dissolve and the heavens shall fade;  
The dead small and great in the judgment shall stand,  
What power then, O sinner, will lend thee its aid?

The old year is gone and we cannot change the past; but there is a New Year before us and if the Lord grants us life we can, with His help, profit by the experiences of the past. With every opportunity there comes responsibility, let us be men of God and bear what ever the load may be, "Must Jesus bear the cross alone?" With every temptation there is provided a way of escape, let us seek it and overcome the tempter. For every sacrifice that we make there is a reward in this life and if we are faithful in the service of our Lord an eternity of unspeakable bliss is awaiting us. Only in Christ our Lord can it be a Happy New Year.

## THE WAGON RIDE

From Navajo land, I remember someone telling the story of how a man was traveling down the road with his horse and wagon. He soon came upon a man on foot, heading in the same direction. The wagon owner noticed that the traveler was carrying a heavy sack over his shoulder, so he stopped and offered a ride to the weary man.

At first the fellow declined the offer, explaining that he did not want to burden the wagon driver with his load. The wagon owner insisted, however, so the traveler accepted reluctantly, thinking it would be all right to ride a short distance. He hopped in and sat beside the wagon driver, but instead of setting his sack down, he kept it on his shoulder.

After a while the driver asked the man why he did not want to put his sack down in the wagon. There was plenty of room, the



owner said, and encouraged the man to lay aside his heavy burden. The traveler assured the driver that although he was very thankful for the ride, he did not want to burden him with an extra load so would bear it on his own shoulder. As the two men traveled on together the wagon owner noticed that the man would occasionally lay aside his burden for a short time, then pick it up again.

The story goes on to explain how Jesus is like the wagon driver wanting to help each of us with our burden, whether it be of sin, worry, or despair. We are like the man walking down the road, struggling to carry our burden on our own. Jesus says in Matt. 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

It's interesting how we all "get into the wagon" in different ways. Some people grow spiritually by leaps and bounds. They are so thankful to lay their burden down and lean completely on Jesus. Others will put down a little at a time, always hanging on to something they are afraid to let go of (pride, jealousy, secret sin, and so forth). Jesus wants your ALL! Still others will let go of everything, yet like the traveler, start looking again at that sack of burdens riding in the wagon and reach to pick it up again, unnecessarily.

Yes! We can turn everything over to Jesus and trust Him for everything. We do not have to do things on our own. Titus 3:5-7, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

Sad to say, there are still some who will reject that offer of help and not trust anyone. John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

We think it sounds silly to get on a wagon and not put our sack of burdens down, but this is what we do many times in our spiritual walk. We each feel the guilt of sin or the burden of worry. Without Jesus to turn to, it is a load that is unbearable. In fact, we are afraid



to let go or turn it over to anyone else.

Who can take away this load of guilt to make us free and give us peace in our heart? John 14:26-27 answers this question. "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Can we do anything on our own? No, we need the help of the Holy Spirit, promised to us by Jesus, to lead and comfort us through each day. We read in Phil. 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Yes, there is a way.

I like the prayer "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." Yes, we do have responsibilities in this life. Jesus promised us a light burden and assured us that we would not be tempted above what we are able to bear.

Go ahead and enjoy the wagon ride, lean on Jesus, feel the grace of God and share that grace with others.

Brother Roy Litfin  
Quinter, KS 67752

## UNITY

II Cor. 6:17, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

John 17:11b, "...but these are in the world,..."

John 17:16a, "They are not of the world,..."

I Cor. 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

John 17:21, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

I Cor. 6:12, "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

Unity is easy to speak of but hard to achieve. All of us want the church to be united in belief and practice, but each of us has a different view of what that unified position is.

John 17:21 tells us that one reason for unity is to be a witness to the world. The world sees things only in the physical realm and not the spiritual. So to be a witness to them, we must be united in both realms, physical and spiritual. The physical realm is that which we see with our eyes. When we do not appear unified to the world our witness is impaired.

We have tried talking about this as a church body and even agreed about it enough to write the church polity booklet. Still we find that in practice the world sees us as less than unified. Take for example the prayer veil. The size of coverings varies from a cupcake size to those that cover the ears. Some covering strings tie under the chin, some hang loose, some are one piece, some are not worn at all. Even the covering itself is becoming more optional and seen as only necessary for church functions.

To achieve unity each one of us must compromise our beliefs. The worldly churches do this by accepting the practices of the most liberal believers in the body. For example worldly churches choose to let women go uncovered, cut and style their hair, dress like men and become pastors and elders. I hope that is unacceptable to you. What if we were to compromise our beliefs by accepting the practices of the most conservative believers in the body? For example, women's coverings would cover their ears, tie under the chin, be worn even while sleeping, the hair never, ever cut.

Let me suggest this; let us prayerfully consider compromising just one belief. Find something in our life that we believe to be acceptable and true and holy and sinless but that our brothers and sisters might find questionable, borderline, rebellious or immodest. Then stop doing it. Consider it a sacrifice. Do it out of love. Don't do it in secret. Don't do it with just family. Don't do it when you are only with worldly people. Don't do it at all even if you believe it is not a sin. If it breaks down unity, if it weakens your brother or sister, if it

mars your witness to the world it is a sin and you are not compromising your beliefs by not doing it. We are not here for ourselves. We are here for Christ and the world that does not know Him.

When we discuss unity in the church it is usually about what someone else is doing to spoil it. We cannot change what someone else does but we can change what we do. Consider compromising one of your beliefs of liberty and doing something new out of love and obedience. Let us build the Kingdom and forsake our world. Let us be diligent to speak the same thing, having no divisions, being perfectly joined together in the same mind and judgment, one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is above all and through all and in you all."

God's Peace  
Brother Tim Scofield

## KENYA KNOTES

October 27 was a beautiful fall day and we were scurrying around doing last minute things. The telephone rang and it was newlyweds (daughter and husband) honeymooning on the island of Cazmel. They called to let us know Hurricane Mitch was headed right in their direction. The ferry had stopped running and the airlines were booked full. They were stranded. After trying to give them some consolation and encouragement, some phone calls were made requesting prayer for their safety.

We then were on our way to Dulles, Washington airport for our trip to Africa. Many thoughts raced through our minds, just what did the Lord have in store for us and our family? "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.

We arrived in London with time to tour the city. A phone call revealed to us the newlyweds, with assistance from family at home, had found a flight homeward bound. Praise the Lord. Yes, God still answers prayers! So with peace and thanksgiving we flew onto Nairobi.

What a beautiful sight to find Bro. Paul, Sis. Mary, Bro. Hosea and Sis. Florence at the gate to greet us. The trip back to Kapengura is long and tiring but the scenery is beautiful.



The people are friendly and eager to welcome you. We have been traveling to the different congregations. The services are held in small rooms rented for Sunday. The attendance is a mixture of brothers and sisters in the Lord and children, not all from the same families. Some sisters have unsaved husbands. These people come alive in praise and singing. They enjoy giving their testimony for the Lord. There is a hungering and thirsting for righteousness. They have a desire to be taught. We witness the Holy Spirit working in the people and "thank" previous missionaries who were willing to serve in Kenya. (P.S. We had the opportunity to visit with Bro. and Sis. Scofield and sons before we left home.)

There are far more people than jobs available. Some have small family run businesses. Others are involved in gardening and small farming operations. The main crop in this area is maize. One day we helped to harvest.

There is a need for development in many areas. There are many springs but the animals walk through and pollute them. Frank has been helping to cap springs for clean water. He has been working with local villagers to provide supplies of clean water. Many also get their water from the river. When they see good being done, many requests are made for help.

There is much work to be done here in Kenya. The harvest is ripe and the reapers are few.

If you wish to use your talents serving the Lord in another country, come to Kenya.

Thank you for the cards, letters and especially prayers on our behalf. They are very much appreciated.

In His love,  
Brother Frank and Sister Janet Shaffer

## **AFRICAN MISSION BOARD REPORT**

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: Old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17.

These words of the Apostle Paul make our hearts rejoice for the many souls in Africa who have been born anew, into the family of



God.

During the past year our Church has been able to maintain the Mission House in Kapenguria, Kenya, staffed by our missionaries. We commend them for their diligence in ministering to the congregations and overcoming the many trials Satan put before them. One of our great obstacles is being able to stay in Kenya more than six months at a time. The authorities of Kenya have visited the Mission and have received us favorably. It is needful to have the Church registered in Kenya, and obtain a work permit, to stay more than six months at a time. We are trying diligently to obtain registration.

Our primary aim is to share the "Water of Life" with the African people. Secondly the need for clean water is very great and preparations are in progress to drill wells for them. Also, springs are being contained to supply fresh water.

We want to thank everyone who has supported the work in Africa and encourage your continued generosity as we enter this New Year. We need your prayers and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Bro. and Sis. Jeremiah Johnson will be returning to Africa, the Lord willing, this month. Remember them daily in your prayers, and write or telephone them often: Dunkard Brethren African Mission, P.O. Box 658, Kapenguria, Kenya, East Africa. Telephone number 011-2543242043.

May the Name of our God be glorified until Jesus comes.

Brother Ray R. Reed, Secretary

## **A BETTER WAY**

Continued from December 1998 Issue

Looking at the changes that have taken place in the last two to three hundred years around the world, we marvel at all the new inventions, technology, and medical advancements that have been made. So many of these things have brought us an easier or longer life. It seems as if God's blessing must be on all these wonders that have been such a help to us. Maybe we should stop to consider if God's wisdom would have applied man's knowledge in an entirely different direction. It's hard for us to imagine it happening in any other way, so here are some examples of what I mean.

In the medical field we find that chemotherapy and radiation are common ways of curing the disease of cancer. At the same time, those two treatments cost the body greatly, literally making it sick, and temporarily killing its immune system. It is possible that in another fifty to one hundred years, man will look back on that type of treatment as inhumane, senseless, and ineffective. That is the way we look back on the practice of blood-letting, which at one time was a common medical treatment. Time has shown that blood-letting was not a really wise course of action. Time may also prove the foolishness of some of the common medical practices of today.

On the other hand, there may be some new treatments that could have been discovered and used years ago. The use of the laser is an example. Maybe if man had used Godly wisdom it would have been discovered years ago — or maybe not even now.

The use of solar energy is still a relatively new idea. Would God have had man tapping into the sun hundreds of years ago as the energy source He had prepared for us all along? Did we miss out on His best because we followed man's reasoning rather than His wisdom?

Another area to think about is the use of birth control. To today's modern families, birth control is not only acceptable, but it's considered the only wise course of action. But is that what God says? While God says children are a blessing from Him, Christians, as well as non-Christians, say do not give us too many of that kind of blessing. Some blessings we just cannot handle. It may be this is another area where we unthinkingly accepted man's technology because of its earthly benefit to our selfishness, and rejected God's plan, which could only be His best for us. On the other hand, maybe God does not mind at all if we use birth control. We need to return to God's word, ask His wisdom, and be willing to follow His commands. **(Prov. 3:13) "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."**

#### FOR GOOD OR EVIL

An obvious result of today's technology is the fact that it can be used for evil as well as good. As an example, the same technology that enables doctors to find in unborn babies problems that call for a Cesarean birth also enables them to find problems that cause some

parents to request an abortion. The same drugs used to dull pain can be used to commit suicide. Videos can be used for the highest education or the grossest kind of entertainment.

Many scientists, researchers, doctors, and inventors of today speak and do that which is contrary to God's law, at the same time claiming that they are doing nothing wrong, but rather that they are right and good in their actions. Abortion is an example. Abortion supporters make their actions sound acceptable by saying a baby is better dead than either unwanted or handicapped in some way. Most of us are not taken in by this idea, but there may be other areas in which we *are* deceived, when men's arguments have a show of wisdom. We have to be careful to base our thinking on God's word. **(Isa. 5:20-21) "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"**

Man's technology invented by man's wisdom often calls for more wisdom to use it properly. Sometimes the result of a person's actions puts them in a tough situation, looking for answers. Then, when they begin to ask for wisdom, we find in Proverbs 1 that wisdom answers "they shall not find me." As a result of refusing God's wisdom from the start, God refuses to give them wisdom later when they desire it. Instead, He says they will "eat of the fruit of their own way." (Prov. 1:24-30) "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: *For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.*" **(Prov. 14:6) "A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth."**

Does all this mean that Christians should shun modern technology, and continue to live as they did in days gone by? Where does



“modern” end and “the good old days” begin? God tells us we should not necessarily consider the older days better days. (Ecc. 7:10) “Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this.” One woman has said that since God placed her in the 1990’s, He expected her to live in the age in which He placed her, rather than trying to live as they did in centuries past. If He had wanted her to live in the 1700’s or 1800’s, He would have put her there. It is not always more Godly to live “old-fashionably”, but instead we should take the best that God wants us to have in this day in which we live.

### THE CHRISTIAN’S RESPONSE

So how does God really want His people to respond to a modern world full of technology, invention, and philosophy? Can we just accept it as a blessing from Him? Should we reject it completely, and live as they did two hundred, three hundred, or more years ago? How can we know? **(Eph. 5:17) “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”**

The Bible may not give us cut-and-dried answers to specific situations, but we will find general principles for living in today’s modern world. First, we are to ask for God’s wisdom. **(James 1:5-6) “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and unbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”**

Second, we must trust that God’s ways are right, even when they do not seem reasonable to us. Only then will we receive His guidance. Trusting in God’s leading instead of our own reasoning does not mean we stop thinking. To quote from an article by Ron Tagliapietra in HomeSchool Helper, “Faith requires trust but does not require surrendering intellect. Likewise, reason founded on Scripture does not mock faith. Verses that caution believers about false reasoning and false science do not tell us to reject all reasoning and science. We must ‘prove all things’ against Scripture and ‘hold fast that which is good.’” **(Prov. 3:5-7) “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”**



Lastly, we must be willing to give up our own ways and commit our lives to Him. We have to get ourselves, our own earthly wisdom, our own opinions and desires, out of the way, then we can receive His wisdom and direction. **(Prov. 16:3) "Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established."**

(Prov. 2:6-9) "For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of His saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path."

Sister Arlene Stamy  
P.O. Box 74  
Hasty, CO 81044

## WOODEN HORSES

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18.

After Pentecost, the Devil unleashed all his power against the new church. Acts 8:1 states, "...And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem;..." His work only served to spread the Gospel. Acts 8:4, "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word." In Hebrews 11:36-37 we read in detail of this persecution: "And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;" Revelation 12:11 says, of this generation, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

Satan discovered that persecution could not overthrow the church. He then tried to sneak in as a false prophet, but the Lord's true ministry exposed him. Jude 4 says, "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condem-

nation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." Satan had to change his tactics. He could not get in through the back door, so he decided to walk in through the front gate.

The Greeks had lay siege to the ancient Asian city of Troy (called Troas in the New Testament) for ten years, and were no closer to capturing it, so they decided to change their tactics. As the armies of the Greeks sailed away (quite visibly to the Trojans) the residents of Troy saw a large wooden horse on the shore. A man named Sinon appeared. He was a Greek deserter, so he said. "The horse is a gift from the army of the Greeks," he said.

The Trojans were joyful and happy as they took their prize into the city with them and closed the gate. One of the old men of the city rose up in warning. "We do not know what it is. At least leave it outside the gate." His words fell on deaf ears. That night, after the feasting and celebration had abated and all had fallen asleep, Sinon, "the Greek deserter", let the soldiers out of the Wooden Horse that were hidden there, and they reopened the gate, letting in Greek soldiers that massacred every Trojan man, woman, and child in the city.

What are our Wooden Horses today? Some would say television. Some might say modern Bible versions. At any rate there are similarities between the original wooden horse and those that trouble us today:

1. The enemy seems to be nowhere in sight. Television was wholesome in the beginning, but changed gradually so that a sinful, godless world view is quite apparent today.

2. A gift for the people. Television was supposed to bring families together and be a fountain of knowledge and understanding. Today it has become a drug, which people must have for their daily fix.

3. People were warned against it. The true preachers continue to warn against unwholesome practices, but there are those who ignore the warnings and take these things into their hearts and homes. The messengers of God are obligated to warn when the enemy approaches. (See Ezekiel 33.)

4. Evil came out of it. Deuteronomy 7:26 says, "Neither shalt

thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing."

In Isaiah 62:10 we are told to "...lift up a standard for the people." It is necessary for those in authority to lift up God's standard of holiness.

I Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Some of the modern inventions are beneficial to mankind. Others have been designed of the devil to destroy the church. If the Trojans had examined the wooden horse beforehand, they would have seen the trapdoor and would have spared themselves, but alas, it was not to be. We, the church, can spare ourselves by being vigilant in the face of the devil's temptations.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

## **THE CHRISTIAN GARB**

Some years ago when my daughter and I were touring in Europe we traveled by plane to the different countries. I do not remember which country we were in, but I will never forget the incident. The plane landed for refueling and had requested all on board to vacate the plane. When we stepped back into the plane a friendly stewardess stopped us and politely inquired of us why we wore the white caps? We explained that we wear them because the Bible says in I Cor. 11 that Christian women should have their heads covered. Please read the scripture. We did not have time to hold a conversation with her, but she was pleased to know, and remarked that she had not seen anything like that in all of Europe. I wondered if she ever read the scriptures.

Many times I have been asked questions concerning my covering and plain garb. I must say I believe that the plain garb made goodly impressions on the people who asked for the information. Sometimes they immediately pick up the Bible if it is handy and read I Cor. 11. They then remark that women should also have long



hair. That long hair is given us of God as a glory for us plus we also have a covering. I have often wondered if we refuse to let our hair grow long whether God will even give us a crown of glory in Heaven?

I love the Christian garb and the new styles do not entice me. I am not proud of my plain garb. That would not be in accordance with God's Word, for God hates even a proud look. Prov. 6:17-18, 16:5, 21:4, Luke 1:51. No Christian should have pride in his heart even though it does not show outwardly.

The plain garb does mission work even though we are not acquainted with the people with whom we come in contact. Maybe we never speak to them. The Bible teaches us to be plain and simple not only in dress, but also in speech. We should be honest in dealing with others. We should be careful about the kind of company we keep, the places we go, and the things for which we spend our money. We need to avoid decorating our bodies with hairdos, jewelry and so forth.

The Christian life is a very simple life, well planned by God to give us a clean conscience. It is a productive life when we keep His commandments and treat others as we would have them treat us.

Satan is always present to mar our happiness, but if we obey God's safety valves Satan cannot overcome us. Praise the Lord, for He is the greatest power if we do our part and obey Him, and seek to do His will in obedience from the heart.

People wear many garbs to distinguish the types of work they do such as the army, navy, sheriffs, ministers and so forth. The Christian needs the Christian armour most of all, because their work is for the Lord. It is the most important work on earth. If we live like and look like the world it shows. It is as if we are ashamed of our calling. If we are ashamed of Him in this wicked and adulterous generation, He will be ashamed of us before His Father and the Holy Angels. At the day of judgment will He be ashamed of you and me? He tells us we are not to light a candle and put it under a bushel where the light cannot get out so others can see. A light that is set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Is each of our lights on a mountain for all to see, or is it under the bushel of worldliness?

The Gospel life is a very simple life to live. It is a blessed and happy life when we fully give our hearts to the Lord and say "No" to

Satan's suggestions. Even though the way heavenward is narrow and bumpy, at times, God will care for us and lead us safely upward. Paul and Silas sang songs and prayed to God in prison, with their feet securely in the stocks. The Lord blessed them by sending His angel and an earthquake and freed them. He is also capable of caring for us if we just take our burdens to the Lord and leave them there. Read Acts 16:25-34.

Let us strive to be steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord, unashamed and happy to be a witness for Him. Rom. 1:16, 5:5, II Tim. 1:8, Heb. 2:11, 11:16, I Peter 4:16.

Sister Ruth Snyder

## **OUR SATURDAY NIGHT**

The Beggar

J. H. Moore

In Luke 16 a very touching story is told of an unfortunate man who breathed his last while near the gate of a rich man. His name was Lazarus, and his last days were spent as a beggar. The story is very short, in fact too short to contain the history of the man. But he had a history nevertheless.

There may have been a period in his life when he was in good circumstances. He may have had a loving mother and a kind father. His boyhood may have been passed most pleasantly. At any rate he grew to manhood, and entered upon the task of making his own way through the world. Morally and religiously he was doubtless an exemplary young man, and the outlook in the world was as good for him as for the average person in his circumstances.

There may have come a time in his life when each evening, after the labors of the day were completed, he could return to his own vine-clad cottage on the hillside, and enjoy the society of an affectionate wife and the comforts and joys of a charming home. How many years were spent in this manner we have no way of knowing, but we can well imagine that such may have been, for a while at least, his good fortune.

But there came an unwelcome change. The loving wife was torn from his heart and embrace, and assigned a resting place in

the tomb. Then, in course of years, the delightful home slipped away from him. Just how this happened we can only imagine. Sickness in the family may have caused debts that increased as the years went by. The death of the angel of his household left him discouraged, and he went out into the world despondent and with a broken heart. To him life lost all its charms. The loss of his home brought additional hardships, and then followed sickness.

The loss of his health was the matter of only a few years. With wife, money and health gone, friends were few. There may have been a time in life when he could have numbered his friends by the score. But our story finds him without friends as well as without health, and without money. Matters went from bad to worse, and he became a most unfortunate beggar. He could no more walk the streets in quest of alms. All he could do was to lie, day after day, at the gate of a rich man, begging for only the crumbs that came from those who had plenty. Terrible was the condition of his flesh, for he seemed to have been greatly infested with sores, and it was a comfort to have the dogs of the street lick them.

Most people who knew him probably thought of his condition when he lived happily in the little cottage on the hillside. "What a change," they would say. "How the man has fallen!" Yes, it may have looked that way to man, but God did not see it in that light. God was not looking at the diseased body; he was all the while looking at the soul. But the end came at last. The poor beggar closed his eyes in death, with only the dogs to watch by his side. He passed away without one loving hand to aid him in his deep distress. How he may have longed for the presence of a dear wife or a loving mother! But no one came to comfort him. His only relief was death.

At public expense his body was taken to the potter's field, and there buried. Many who happened to know him probably felt that death came none too soon, and in all likelihood thought it was fortunate that he died. He was soon forgotten, for the people regarded him only as an unfortunate beggar.

They never knew, of course, that angels stood by him when his heart ceased to beat, and then bore his spirit to paradise. They never knew that during all his misfortunes his soul remained true to God, and that by him it was claimed for the land of the blest. But so



it was with Lazarus. He made life a success. While the rich around him made life a failure, the poor, unfortunate beggar made it a crowning success. The moral of this story teaches that we should never look down on a man simply because he is poor and unfortunate. In the diseased and scantily-clad body may be hidden one of the noblest souls. It is altogether probable that not a few of the finest ornaments to be found in the New Jerusalem will be from bodies scorned and despised of men. God looks upon the heart.

## MOTHER SHIPTON'S PREDICTIONS

D. L. Miller

Before examining the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the Jews attention is called to a so-called modern prophecy known as Mother Shipton's prediction. Dr. Pierson has this to say about it: "Some years ago it appeared as a relic of a remote day, and claimed to have predicted the invention of steam as a motive power, diving suits, balloons, a threefold revolution in France; the rise of Disraeli, the Jew, as a figure in English politics, the erection of a crystal palace, etc. After its first appearance it was almost forgotten. Years later it reappeared, with a few very slight changes in the rhyme, such as to be scarcely noticed, and yet so including recent events as to make this 'prophecy' seem more startling. At times in arguing with skeptics I was met by the statement that here was an ignorant woman who lived four hundred years ago, and who had written an 'uninspired prophecy which was of undoubted antiquity, and however rude in shape, containing several remarkable predictions.' So for years I have been trying to unearth and expose what seemed to me a huge imposture, and having succeeded, here record the result. My first clue to the forgery was the discovery that at least three separate and different versions had been put before the people. The changes or variations were slight and sly, adroitly accommodating the pretended prophecy to the new developments of current history: till at last the whole thing has been traced to Charles Hindley, who acknowledges himself the author of this prophetic hoax, which was written in 1862 instead of 1448, and palmed off on a credulous public! It is one of the startling proofs of human perversity that the very people who will try to cast suspicion on prophecies two thou-

sand years old, will, without straining, swallow a forgery that was first published forty years ago, and not even looked into its claims to antiquity."

Selected from *The Eternal Verities* by L. D. Wolf

**Editor's note:** To answer some concerns about "Mother Shipton's Prophecies", the following is printed here. In his book, *The Eternal Verities*, Elder D.L. Miller gives this explanation from Dr. A. T. Pierson, a noted religious scholar of that time. Although it has appeared on several occasions in the Bible Monitor in the past, it will not appear again.

## OBITUARIES

### OSCAR L. BEEMAN

Bro. Oscar Lee Beeman, 92, of Knapps Meadow, Lonaconing, Maryland went home to his maker on July 14, 1998, at Memorial Hospital, Cumberland, Maryland. He has answered the call in Psalm 95:6, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."

Born September 3, 1905, in Garrett County, he was the son of the late Henry Thomas Beeman and the late Mary Ann (Clark) Beeman. He was preceded in death by his wife, Flossie Olive (Broadwater) Beeman; a son, Clyde Oscar Beeman; a granddaughter, Donna (Clark) James; and three brothers, Bertus Beeman, George Beeman and Edward Beeman; also two sisters, Clara Hacker and Effie Layton.

Bro. Beeman was a retired coal miner. He also was a skilled carpenter and erected many houses in the area, including his own. He was an avid gardener until age 91. Bro. Beeman was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church, Broadwater Chapel, Savage River Road, for seventy-one years, and served as head Deacon and in various capacities for many years. Bro. Oscar and his wife of seventy years are the parents of "Country Gospel Singers", who ministered in the area for twenty-four years.

Surviving are three sons, Rev. Homer Beeman and wife Freda, Westernport, Maryland, Robert Beeman and wife Sandra, Frostburg, Maryland, and Roger Beeman and wife Sandy, Spring-

field, Virginia; three daughters, Edna Clark and husband Glen, Lonaconing, Maryland, Louise Skidmore and husband Stanley, Frostburg, Maryland, and Lavona Sines and husband Ronnie, Frostburg, Maryland; and a daughter-in-law, Jean Beeman, Frostburg, Maryland; also two sisters, Mary Schriver, Barton, Maryland and Blanche Klavuhn, Lonaconing, Maryland; twenty one grandchildren; thirty seven great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and one on the way. The Oscar Beeman clan totals ninety-five.

Friends were received at the Boal Memorial Chapel, Barton, Maryland.

Funeral services were conducted at the Bethel Pentecostal Holiness Church, Lonaconing, Maryland on Friday, July 17, at 1:00 P.M. by Elder Virgil Leatherman, Bro. Ray Stuber and Rev. George Loar officiating. Interment was in Restlawn Memorial Gardens, LaVale, Maryland.

#### THE IMPACT OF ONE LIFE

When a stone is dropped into a lake,  
it quickly disappears from sight,  
But its impact leaves behind,  
a series of ripples that broaden,  
and reach across the water.

In the same way, the impact of  
one life lived for Christ  
Will leave behind an influence for good,  
that will reach the lives of  
many others.

-Roy Lessin

-Selected by Sister Lavona Sines

#### MY DAD

My Dad, a kind and gentle man,  
Loved by many through out the land.  
Has gone on to the Lord his maker,



According to God's eternal plan.

He loved the Lord with all his heart,  
And waited patiently for the day,  
God would come and take him home,  
To meet my mom in Heaven to stay.

My Dad never had a lot to say.  
He'd sit and listen in his own way.  
His smile, love and gentle voice,  
Will always be in our hearts to stay.

His work on earth is finished,  
Heaven's gates are open wide.  
The Heavenly Angels are singing  
Bidding Dad to step inside.

-Sister Lavona Sines, daughter

The family would like to thank each and everyone for the special love you had for Dad and Mom. We thank you for your prayers, cards, letters and words of encouragement in our time of need. May God Bless!

The Oscar Beeman Family

JOHN M. WISLER

Bro. John M. Wisler, a son of Samuel and Amanda (Koontz) Wisler was born December 10, 1911, in Blair County, Pennsylvania. He departed this life November 18, 1998, at his home of 5102 Polktown Road, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. He lived his early life in Blair County and later moved to Quincy, Pennsylvania.

He was baptized into the Dunkard Brethren Church. He was elected into the deacon's office and taught Sunday School for a number of years. He willingly lent himself to the services of the church.

On February 26, 1946, he was united in marriage with Edna V.

Shelly. They shared the joys and sorrows of life for more than fifty two years and were blessed with six children. He began farming in Blair County. Following his marriage, he owned and operated a farm on Polktown Road from 1947 until retiring in 1979 following a farming injury.

His health had been declining for years and his eyesight had been gone for the last couple of years which made it hard for him to get around. He accepted this with patience. He called for the anointing realizing his life would not be long.

Surviving are his loving companion; four sons, Glenn and companion Doris, Daniel and companion Beverly, Earl and companion Mary Ellen, Dale and companion Sharon; two daughters, Doretta and Ethel and companion LeRoy; fourteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one grandson, Aaron Michael Whipple; four sisters, Mattie Wisler, Susie Gilpin, Fannie Hearn, Elizabeth Wisler; and one brother David Wisler.

Funeral services, held at 10:00 A.M., Saturday, November 20, 1998, were conducted by Elder Frank D. Shaffer, Elder Eldon Malow, and Bro. Dean Shaffer at the Antietam German Baptist meeting house. Hymns used were 578, 588, and 129 What A Day That Will Be. His body was laid to rest in the Price's Church of the Brethren Cemetery to await resurrection morn.

#### The Family

#### BEULAH M. FITZ

Sis. Beulah M. Fitz was born to Samuel and Ida A (Benner) Fitz, August 27, 1896, on a farm south of Yale, Iowa. She later lived near Panorama, Iowa before moving to Dallas Center, Iowa in 1933. She died at Dallas Center, Iowa on September 27, 1998, at the age of 102 years and one month.

She attended a country school, which she enjoyed. She graduated from the eighth grade. Following schooling she was given the responsibility of cooking, gardening, and chicken raising.

On July 4, 1909, she was baptized into the Church of the Brethren at Panorama, Iowa and later became a charter member of the Dunkard Brethren Church at Dallas Center, Iowa in October 1926. She served as Sunday School Secretary and Treasurer and was a

teacher of children's classes for many years.

Not having a family of her own she became a helper to families who had children. She sewed for many over-seas children.

She is survived by several cousins, nine nieces and nephews and more great nieces and nephews and some great, great young ones.

She had a good life and many years. She was a member of the Church for eighty-nine years.

Services were conducted by Bro. Fred Pifer, with burial in the Church of the Brethren Cemetery at Panora, Iowa.

## **MARRIAGE**

### **SHAFFER-BECK**

Sis. Tina L. Shaffer, daughter of Bro. Frank and Sis. Janet Shaffer, and Shaun L. Beck, son of Frank and Sis. June Beck were united in Holy Matrimony, October 17, 1998. Tina and Shaun reside at 483 Schubert Road, Bethel, PA 19507. Telephone number 717-933-4242.

## **MEETING NOTICES**

March 24-April 4 - Revival Meeting, Lititz, Pennsylvania

## **LOVEFEAST NOTICES**

March 13 - Hart, Michigan

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1999**

February 7 - A Voice Crying In The Wilderness - Luke 3:1-20.

1. What is "The baptism of repentance"?
2. How shall all flesh see the salvation of God?

February 14 - Jesus' Lineage And Satan's Temptations - Luke 3:21-4:13.



1. What was the purpose of Jesus' baptism?

2. How can we today overcome the temptations of Satan?

February 21 - Jesus Begins His Ministry - Luke 4:14-37.

1. How can we attain the power of the Spirit today?

2. Why were they in the synagogue filled with wrath when they heard the words of Jesus?

February 28 - Jesus Calls His First Disciples - Luke 4:38-5:16.

1. What qualities does Jesus look for in a disciple?

2. Why did Jesus charge the one healed of leprosy to "tell no man"?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1999**

February 7 - Widow's Mite - Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-8.

1. What is sacrificial giving? (Explain)

2. How can less actually be more in God's sight?

February 14 - Five Loaves, Two Fishes - Matt. 14:14-22, Mark 6:31-44, Luke 9:11-17.

1. Why were the people made to sit down by fifties?

2. After the people had eaten, why were the remaining food fragments gathered into baskets?

February 21 - Contentment - Prov. 15:1-6, Phil. 4:10-13, I Tim. 6:3-10, Heb. 13:5-6.

1. How can we learn to be content?

2. Explain the connection of Godliness and contentment?

February 28 - The Light Of The World - Isa. 9:2, John 8:12, Matt. 5:14-16, II Cor. 4:3-6, Eph. 5:11-17.

1. What is "The light of life"?

2. How are we the light of the world?

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# BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## THE LOVE OF GOD

I cannot write the love of God -  
It's beyond what words can say,  
No pen with ink could ever write  
God's great love for us today.

God's love is like the ocean big -  
It stretches on forever,  
Every wave, is a word of love -  
Which will not stop, No! NEVER!

God's love was shown on Calvary -  
Because, for our sins He died,  
Yes, love is why He holds my hand,  
And over steep mountains guide.

Love is why He went to Heaven  
To build a mansion for me,  
Someday, in love, He'll call us home -  
And we'll live eternally!

-Rhoda A. Frick

## GODLINESS

The Apostle Paul admonished his Spiritual son, Timothy, to live a godly life. That same admonition is for Christians today. Although many profess Christianity, many of them fail to allow their professed beliefs influence their activities.

The word, "godliness" is a shortened form of the word, "godlikeness," which may tell us more about the word's true meaning. To be godly is to be, in a human way, like God. While none are able to perfectly imitate God, there is a need to cultivate a life that approaches godlikeness. Many times we are able to distinguish children, who are unknown to us, as being the members of certain families. Their looks and mannerisms betray their relationship with a certain family. Could many of today's Christians be recognized by their looks, mannerisms or activities as being members of God's family?

In I Timothy 3:16, Paul speaks of the mystery of godliness. He speaks of God appearing in the form of flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. Through the ultimate gift of His Son, God made possible the redemption of the human race. Men now have the possibility of living godly lives. That was totally impossible without the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. There was no way that a man could ever approach God, whether through sacrifices, good deeds or martyrdom, by his own efforts. Paul opens this mystery to Timothy that he might better understand the basis of

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## THE BIBLE MONITOR

## FEBRUARY 1999

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living godly lives.

In I Timothy 4: 7-8, Paul further urges Timothy to cultivate godly activities in his life. Godliness is not solely dependent upon what has been done for man. There is a need for personal activity in pursuing godliness. Timothy is told to exercise himself unto godliness. Anyone who has exercised knows that a persistent effort is demanded. Exercise to be effective can not be a sometime activity. Bodily exercise will only affect and improve the body. Exercise may be necessary to restore or maintain good health.

Good physical health is temporal. It does not effect the eternal destiny of the soul. Good health makes our earthly journey a little more enjoyable and productive. Good Spiritual health is far more important. Paul, therefore, admonishes Timothy to exercise himself in the Spiritual elements of life above the physical elements. By pursuing godliness, Timothy will be doing that which is profitable.

We do many things in the economic and social world to turn a profit. Paul can say that it is ultimately more profitable to pursue godliness than to pursue a physical or economic profit. Whatever we gain in this life will be left here at the end. What we gain through godliness will not only be profitable here but throughout eternity. That is real profit.

In I Timothy 4:16, Paul further admonishes Timothy to be aware of his actions, which will not only affect himself but others as well. He gives Timothy a double duty in his Spiritual life. On one hand He was to look to his own doings. He was to be careful how he lived his life. He was to pursue godliness in his activities. He was to examine himself as he went along to be sure that he was doing what would be a good reflection of God in his life.

At the same time he was to give attention to the doctrine that he had been taught and was teaching. The body of beliefs and practices that he was proclaiming must be true to the revealed will of God. Doctrine is important. How will the world respond if the church gives an uncertain sound by being indistinct in its proclamation of its doctrine? A doctrine that is in line with the Word of God is necessary if souls are to be rescued from the doom that they are facing.

Too often we see an imbalance between doctrine and works. Timothy was told to exercise himself unto godliness, which required



an effort as he lived his life. Many either cast doctrine completely aside, declaring that living is the most important element in the Christian living. Others become so wrapped up in doctrine that they ignore Christian living and loving. Many fundamental groups are very painstakingly precise about their doctrine, but give little evidence of godliness in their daily living. Both are necessary in a balanced Christian life.

Timothy's choices not only affected himself but also those to whom Paul had sent him. His preaching and living would influence his listeners either to follow or reject the gospel when he proclaimed it.

Does your life imitate the God of heaven or the god of this world? Are you like God? Are you godly?

M.C.Cook

## **THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT**

Mark 12:29-31, "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

This is called the greatest commandment. To love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. That covers everything that makes us.

What is our heart? Mostly we look at our emotions, our joys and sorrows, our up and downs, our feelings.

What is our soul? It is the part of us that lives on after we die. Men may be able to kill our bodies, but not our souls.

What is our mind? It is the part with which we think and reason. Our intellect. The part we feed with information of good and evil. We can choose what kind of information we feed our mind.

What is our strength? We think of muscles right off, but it's more than that. It is the part that drives us to do what we believe in. Also

it is our endurance to make it to the end.

So how do we show love to God? Matt. 25:40, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." We can show our love for God by focusing totally on serving Him in many different ways.

The second commandment is to do what? To show the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance) to "the least of these." By showing love to our neighbor, we in turn show our love to God.

When we look around us, do we look with eyes of judgment or with compassion on the ones who have fallen or are lost? I am so glad God is more patient with me than I have ever been with anyone else. I am thankful God loves each one of us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. God is waiting patiently for us to turn our lives over to Him. Wholeheartedly.

Love in Christ Jesus,  
Brother Roy Litfin

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN CHURCH

The Psalms tells us to worship God with many musical instruments.

"Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals." Psalm 150:3-5.

Solomon did that exceedingly.

"Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Herman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up

their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord;" II Chron. 5:12-13.

He also used them to glorify himself to the queen of Sheba.

"And the king made...harps and psalteries for singers: and there were none such seen before in the land of Judah. And king Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatever she asked,..." II Chron. 9:11-12.

Nebuchadnezzar used them to worship idols and draw people away from God and to sin.

"That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up." Dan. 3:5.

Other people used instruments to distract themselves from God and His plans and warnings to them. Instead they focused on the instruments and the music.

"Woe to them that are at ease...Ye that put far away the evil day,...That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David;" Amos 6:1-5.

Satan is described as a musical instrument. They are one of his best tools to let him into churches and lure people astray with feelings and emotions.

"...the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created." Eze. 28:13.

The ability to play an instrument is a source of pride and showmanship which robs God of the honor and glory due Him.

"...I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun." Ecc. 2:8,11.

David lived under the law and used instruments and this was acceptable worship at that time. Christ presented a new way of



worship. He stated that the old way of worship will be changed. No longer is it ceremony with trumpets, cymbals, and so forth. It is now a way of worship in Spirit and truth.

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24.

If we must depend on drums and guitars to worship God, how will we worship him when our instruments are smoke and ash?

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." II Cor. 4:18.

We do not need a good voice to sing because we are given the spirit to sing with.

"...I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." I Cor. 14:15.

And God has given us an instrument to use, our hearts.

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" Eph. 5:19.

The apostles gave us an example of this kind of worship.

"And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives." Matt. 26:30.

We have seen how musical instruments can be used to praise God, but all too often they lead to pride, idol worship, emotionalism and distraction from God's will for our life. All these things are the appearance of evil in our worship.

"Abstain from all appearance of evil." I Thess. 5:22.

My Brethren let us abstain from musical instruments in our worship so that they do not become an enticement to sin.

God's Peace  
Brother Tim Scofield

**FEBRUARY 1999 ISSUE****STANDING INFORMATION****EDITORIAL POLICY**

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on the decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

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**SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS**

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the writer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence, which is difficult to punctuate and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations into paragraphs. Set these apart from the rest of the article by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters.

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words such as, "thot" for "thought", "2" for "two", "&" for "and", "etc." for "and so forth".



6. Write or type on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least a one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references. Please copy wording and punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter, and verse. "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: "beleive" for "believe"; "recieve" for "receive"; "ore" for "or"; "&" for "and".

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your editor should have this item at least thirty days prior to the date of that issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items

should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as local Sunday School officers, District Meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items, "In Memoriam".

12. Read these, then write.

### **FIXED COMMUNION DATES**

Third Sat. March - Quinter, KS  
Sat. before Easter - Pleasant Home, CA

First Sat. April - Dallas Center, IA

Fourth Sat. April - West Fulton, OH

Last Sat. April - Grandview, MO

Last Sun. April - Bethel, PA

First Sun. May - Waynesboro, PA

Third Sat. May - Dayton, VA

Third Sun. May - Lititz, PA

Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, PA

Sat. before First Sun. Aug. - Broadwater Chapel, MD

Sat. before Fourth Sun. Aug. - Swallow Falls, MD

First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove,  
MD

Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, VA

Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood,  
OH

Last Sun. Oct. - Bethel, PA

First Sat. Nov. - Pleasant Home,  
CA

First Sun. Nov. - Shrewsbury, PA

Second Sun. Nov. - Lititz, PA

#### AUDITING COMMITTEE

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#### GOSSIP, BOTH, VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters is contrary to Scripture. It should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about those matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is the talking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members, who were not present, or to outsiders, is irregular and un-Christian and should not be indulged in.

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**LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES****BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA**

Located on Route 419, five miles east of Bethel, which is one mile south of Interstate 78, Exit 6. The Church and school are located together.

**BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND**

Located on Savage River Road in Garrett County, Maryland.

From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on Interstate 68, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn left or south under the Interstate three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn left on Westernport Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn right on Savage River Road. Go 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, West Virginia area travel east on Interstate 68 to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn right, go three tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S.Route 50 take U.S. Route 220

north. Take Maryland Route 135 at McCoolle (just north of Keyser, West Virginia, on Maryland side of bridge) go seven miles on Route 135 (passing through Westernport and past WESTVACO Paper Mill) to Savage River Road. Turn right on Savage River Road, go 12.5 miles to church on right

### DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn off Rt.44 unto Quinlan Avenue at west edge of Dallas Center. The church is located at 2323 Quinlan Avenue, three-fourth mile north on the west side of the road.

### DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #245. Go to fourth stop light, Rt.42, turn left to Dayton, 3.5 miles right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

### ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Ohio, Rt 40 and Rt 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt 48, one block north of this junction.

### GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County Rd 130. Take U.S.33 or Indiana 15 to Goshen. Turn west at police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., go one block. Turn left on West Clinton Street. Go one mile to Green Road, turn right and go one block. The church is located on the east side of the road.

### GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1.5 miles south to 139th Street. Turn west and go to second street, turn south one block.

### HART, MICHIGAN

From Muskegon go north on Rt. 31 to Hart Exit. Go left from freeway about 1.5 miles to tee in road. Turn right and go approximately one half mile to church on left side of road.

### LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the south on Route 501, turn right on Newport Road, which is about a mile north of Lititz. Coming from the north turn left on Newport Road. Go to second crossroads, turn right. The white church is on the right.

### MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Mohler Meetinghouse - Located near Route 15 on Old Gettysburg Road, south of Mechanicsburg. Coming from the South take the Rossmoyne/Wesley Drove Exit off Route 15. Make a left onto Rossmoyne Road and another left on Old Gettysburg Road. The meetinghouse is on the left after you travel about one-half mile. Coming from the north you will exit onto Rossmoyne Road and make a left onto Old Gettysburg Road.

Brightbill Meetinghouse - Located on U.S. Route 322, 2.5 miles east of Campbelltown, Pennsylvania in Lebanon County. The meeting house is a grey limestone building.

### McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave Junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colorado on U.S. #50, then one mile north.

### PINE RIDGE, MISSISSIPPI

Located near Collins, Mississippi. From Collins, go east on U.S. 84 three quarters of a mile to Salem School Road. Turn left and go five and one fourth miles to intersection, where there is a directional sign to the church. Turn left and proceed one mile to the next direc-



tional sign. Turn right and go one half mile to the church house.

### PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Avenue, Modesto, California. The church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: from the south on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to the right and stay on Briggsmore Avenue to Claus Road (approximately six miles). Turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Avenue, turn left on Sharon. The Church is on the left.

Coming from the north on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

### PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt 20 Alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Rt. 15 and U.S. Route 20 Alternate.

### PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on black-top road and go five miles to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

### QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

### RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

From Interstate 68, which transverses east and west through western Maryland, proceed to Cumberland, Maryland. Take Route 220 South through Keyser, West Virginia to US 50. (You will need to take a left turn to continue following Route 220.) Turn east (left) on

US 50 and proceed to Ridgeville. Turn right (south) onto Knobley Road.

Follow Knobley Road 7.8 miles (The Antioch Church of God will be on your right). Turn left onto Harness Run Road (which is unpaved). Keep to the right at the "Y" and proceed 1.5 miles to the Ridge church house on the left.

Coming from the east or west on US 50, turn south onto Knobley Road at Ridgeville, and follow the above directions (from Knobley Road to the church).

### SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

### SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Church address is: 2191 Swallow Falls Road., Oakland, MD 21550. Take Maryland Rt. 219 North of Oakland 5.5 miles or South of I 68, 18 miles to Mayhew Inn Road. West on Meyhew Inn Road to the stop sign (4.2 miles). Bear left onto the Oakland- Sang Run Road for .3 mile to the Swallow Falls Road. Turn right onto the Swallow Falls Road for .3 mile. The Church will be on your left.

### WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

Church address is: 4000 Kump Station Road, Taneytown, MD 21787. From Littlestown, PA travel Route 194 south toward Maryland. After crossing PA/MD line (this is shortly after Kingsdale Firehouse on right), turn left onto second hard road on your left, which is Kump Station Road. Follow this road approximately one fourth mile to brick church house on right.

From Taneytown, MD, take Route 194 north three miles. Turn right onto Kump Station Road. Brick church house is on right, approximately one fourth mile.

### WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

Church is located in west side of town, on the corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Avenue, go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

### WEST FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Rt. 20 Alternate, 3.5 miles west of the junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. 20 Alternate.

### WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

Located in Cherry Valley. Coming north of Beaumont on Beaumont Avenue, turn right on Brookside, go to Jonathan, turn left, go one block to Lincoln, turn right and go to church house, which is on left side of road. Coming east on I-10 exit at Cherry Valley Blvd, go to end of road at Noble. Turn right go two blocks to Lincoln, turn left go to church house on left side of road. Coming west on I-10 exit at Highland Springs Road. Turn right, go to Brookside, turn left, go to Winesap, turn right, go one block to Lincoln, turn left. Church house is on right side of road.

## MISSIONS

### CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Ward's Church is located in South-Central Pennsylvania about halfway between Everett on Rt. 30 and Piney Grove on Rt. 40, about six miles south of Clearville. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville. At Clearville go straight south, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right. Go 1.5 miles, turn right at the fork. Ward's Church is five miles on left side of road. Services are held second, fourth and fifth Sundays at 10:00 AM.

### TORREON NAVAJO MISSION, NEW MEXICO

Located 23 miles southwest of Cuba, New Mexico. In Cuba, turn on State Highway 197. Follow Rt. 197 for 19 miles to a paved



road leading to the left. A Mission sign marks this junction. Present personnel includes: David and Mildred Skiles; Paul and Sarah Skiles; Elaine Hale; Erin Jamison; Brad Myers; Alan Trujillo; George Brown and Janell Meyers. Visitors would be wise to notify the Mission in advance. Address: HCR 79, Box 8, Cuba, NM 87013; telephone: 505-731-2292. Please contact for further information.

### AFRICAN MISSION

Located in Makutano, Kenya. Present staff: Jeremiah and Debra Johnson. Address: P.O.Box 658, Kapenguria, Kenya, EA.

### NOTICE CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS

Newlywed couples may receive a year's subscription free if a request is forwarded to the Editor with their name and full address.

To those who anticipate moving, please report a change of address promptly to the Editor to prevent the papers being miscarried.

Also, it will be appreciated if those who send in subscriptions will give the complete address and indicate whether they are new or renewal subscriptions.

It will be of help to the Editor if subscriptions are always sent in the same name.

Is your subscription renewed?

-Editor

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17063

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Bethel, PA	Della Ebling	81 Dry Hollow Rd, Bernville, PA 19506	610-488-7185
Broadwater Chapel, MD	Ronald Sines	16307 Maple View Dr.S.W Frostburg, MD 21532	301-689-1563
Clearville (Mission), PA	Eldon Mallow	R.1 Box 21, Clearville, PA 15536	814-784-3488
Dallas Center, IA	Ray R. Reed	302 Percival, Dallas Center, IA 50063	515-992-3031
Dayton, VA	Eugene Kauffman	313 Park Avenue, Broadway, VA 22815	703-896-3104
Englewood, OH	Paul Stump	10340 N.Diamond Mill Road, Englewood, OH 45322	937-836-6559
Goshen, IN	Mrs.Floyd Swihart	1903 W.Clinton Street, Goshen, IN 46526	219-533-3357
Grandview, MO	Carl E.Reed	4716 E. 139th Street, Grandview,MO 64030	816-761-5715
Hart, MI	Ronald Marks	1813 North 136th Avenue, Hart,MI 49420	616-873-2113
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## MEETING NOTICES

March 14-21 - Revival Meeting, Plevna, Indiana

March 24-April 4 - Revival Meeting, Lititz, Pennsylvania

April 2-3 - Second District Meeting, Plevna, Indiana

April 2-4 - Fourth District Meeting, Pleasnat Home, California

April 4-11 - Revival Meeting, Dallas Center, Iowa

April 9-10 - First District Meeting, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

April 10 - Third District Meeting, Dallas Center, Iowa

April 11-18 - Revival Meeting, Bethel, Pennsylvania

April 25-May 2 - Revival Meeting, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania

### LOVEFEAST NOTICES

March 13 - Hart, Michigan

March 20 - Plevna, Indiana

April 3 - Pleasant Home, California

April 10 - Dallas Center, Iowa

April 24 - West Fulton, Ohio

April 24 - Grandview, Missouri

April 25 - Bethel, Pennsylvania

## NEWS ITEMS

### 1999 GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 5-9, 1999

The Lord willing, the Fourth District of the Brotherhood intends to host General Conference, June 5-9, 1999 in Modesto, California.

The Lodging Committee requests that people planning to attend the Conference and need lodging contact Bro. Dave Reece or Bro. Rudy Manuel as soon as possible. If you can provide your own transportation for the duration of your time at the conference, it will help reduce our costs and organizational needs. If you will need transportation it is imperative to let the Lodging Committee know ahead of time.

Bro. Dave Reece

1341 Bennett Rd.

Modesto, CA 95358

209-529-2741

Bro. Rudy Manuel

4025 Woodland Ave.

Modesto, CA 95358

209-577-4044

On behalf of the Arrangements Committee

Brother Henry Walker

### PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans a Spring Revival, March 14-21,



with Bro. Robert Lehigh as Evangelist. Communion services will be March 20 at 2 P.M. and 7 P.M.

All are invited to come and worship with us.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

### NOTICE TO CHURCH BOARD TREASURERS

The new address for Bro. Marvin Lorenz, Auditing Committee, is:

11067 C.R.27-1

West Unity, OH 43570-9602

419-924-2120

e-mail: lmlorenz@juno.com

### ANNOUNCEMENT

"Who Is My Neighbor?", a book of short stories with a moral. Order at \$2.50 postpaid per book from the author:

Brother Lynn H. Miller

70 Round Barn Rd.

Newmanstown, PA 17073

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1999

March 7 - Faith Finds A Way - Luke 5:17-39.

1. Why was Jesus able to forgive sins?
2. Explain the connection between the forgiveness of sin and the healing of the man sick of the palsy.

March 14 - The Lord Of The Sabbath - Luke 6:1-26.

1. What was unlawful about the disciples eating the grains of wheat as they walked through the field?
2. Why did Jesus heal on the Sabbath day?

March 21 - Living The Kingdom Life - Luke 6:27-49.

1. How is it possible for us to live the Kingdom life as Jesus taught?
2. Why is it so easy for us to see the small faults of others and so difficult for us to recognize large faults of our own?

March 28 - Is Jesus The Messiah? - Luke 7:1-23.

1. Explain the importance of faith as it relates to healing.
2. What was the real purpose of John sending two of his disciples to question Jesus?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1999**

March 7 - The Woman With The Box - Matt. 26:1-13, John 12:1-11.

1. Why did the disciples think the woman had wasted her precious ointment?
2. What did Jesus say the anointing with the precious ointment had accomplished?

March 14 - Abundance - John 10:9-10, Phil. 4:18-19, I Peter 1:1-5.

1. How can we have life more abundantly?
2. How can we discern our needs from our wants?

March 21 - Our Study - Deut. 17:19-20, Isa. 34:16-17, John 5:34-47, Acts 17:10-13, II Tim. 2:13-15.

1. Why should we read and study God's Word?
2. Whose approval should we seek as we study God's Word?

March 28 - Our Blessings - I Kings 3:11-14, Psa. 68:15-19, Matt. 6:28-34, Mal. 3:10-14.

1. How is it possible to seek God's blessing and receive, as Solomon, much more than that for which we asked?
2. How can we know what is "the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness" so we can seek it first?

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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXVII

MARCH 1999

NO. 3

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## LOVE IS THE FOUNTAIN

Love is the fountain whence  
All true obedience flows;  
The Christian serves the God he loves,  
And loves the God he knows.

He treads the heav'nly road,  
And neither faints nor tires;  
That gen'rous love which warms his breast  
With fortitude inspires.

No burden seems so great,  
No task so hard appears,  
But this he cheerfully performs,  
And that he meekly bears.

May love - that shining grace—  
O'er all my pow'rs preside;  
Direct my thoughts, suggest my words,  
And ev'ry action guide!

-Isaac Watts

## PROACTIVE LOVE

Recently, Valentine's Day has been celebrated for the benefit of florists and other retailers. This occasion has become a dream day for merchandisers. The key word associated with the day is "love".

"Love" is used freely, whether on valentines, with flowers or other objects. Too often in our society, "love" is just an excuse for an immoral, physical relationship.

The word, "love" has many meanings. The Greeks avoided confusion by using at least three different words for different aspects of love. "Eros" spoke of a desire for a physical union. "Phileo" spoke of a love between relatives or friends. "Agape" was the highest form of love. It was the love associated with God. It was the love that was shared by those who had enjoyed the love of God. The Christian's Lovefeast is the "agape" meal. If the Greek words were used in English, we could more readily distinguish between the various meanings of love.

The love signified by "eros" was a lust for physical pleasure rather than a compassionate care for another's well-being. The love indicated by "phileo" is a reactive love. There is a concern and care nurtured either by a blood relationship or a reciprocated friendship. "Agape" love is a proactive love. Its greatest demonstration is the love of God toward the human family. A reactive love is a deserved love. It is given because of an exchange between those involved. A proactive love is given because of the deep-felt love

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## THE BIBLE MONITOR

## MARCH 1999

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within. It is not deserved, but is given anyway.

The love of God is unexplainable in human terms. As human beings we are used to an exchange of love, but God has shared His love without it being deserved. We love our families because they are our families. Let someone in the family cheat another out of an inheritance and soon that love will sour.

All sin is ultimately a sin against God. God is perfect. Anything in our lives that misses the mark of perfection is sin. Since none of us can be perfect, we have all sinned against God. Rather than reacting towards mankind with wrath and threats, He has been proactive in His love toward us. He warned men to repent and turn to Him through His prophets and through the Mosaic Law, but men refused to give heed. He then sent His Only Begotten Son to be the answer to man's greatest problem. The human race did not deserve the gift of His Son, but His love compelled Him to give the best He had. There was no reason for Him to do what He did for us, other than His love. His love was proactive. He searched us out, rather than us searching for Him. The lesser would be expected to search for the greater, but God did not leave things in their natural order. He did not react to man's disregard, rather He was proactive in searching out men.

The love God showed took several forms. He demonstrated His love through the physical provisions He made for the welfare of the human race. He showed love in the health and safety that He granted to all men, even those who would not acknowledge Him. His greatest demonstration of love was the provision of a plan of salvation that would meet man's Spiritual needs. He sent the sun and the rain upon all classes of men. His Spiritual gift was made available to all, but it was only effective for those who would acknowledge their sin and separation from God and comply with the terms of that plan. This was God's proactive attempt to bring lost humanity back into a loving relationship with Him. The relationship man had broken in the Garden of Eden could be restored since God gave His Son as the propitiation for the sins of the human race.

Christians, as the recipients of this great, proactive love of God should be demonstrating that proactive love as they live in this world. A Christian's love should not be a reaction to the love and good



deeds of others. Christians should be in the forefront of those who would show their love to those who do not deserve that love. Christians should not be forgetful that they have received that same proactive love that they should be sharing with others. What has been freely received should be freely shared.

Is it our habit to refuse to love those with whom we disagree? Do we choose not to love those who have done us wrong? Do we seek punishment rather than salvation for those who err? Are we determined that we will only love those who deserve our love? Do we ever check to see if we have deserved the love of God, or are we merely sinners saved by His Grace?

Is your love reactive or proactive? Which would God prefer in your life?

M.C.Cook

## **LETTER FROM AFRICA**

Dear Brethren,

We greet you all in Jesus name. We believe you are all fine as we are here in the Lord. We hope that God is as good to you as He is good to us. May we continue praising His name until we see His beautiful and wonderful face.

We have thought it important to write this short letter to thank you all tremendously for all that you have done, you are doing and what you will do for us here in Kenya. The Dunkard Mission that was brought into Kenya a few years ago has benefited Kenyans in many ways for the short period it has been here. We thank you all for denying yourselves and submitting in all possible ways to insure that the Church in Kenya is growing. Very few people can do what you are doing but we thank God for giving you hearts of sympathy.

It sounds impossible in the years of men for somebody to leave his family and property to go to a far, strange country to serve as a missionary. But all things are possible to God. So may you continue sending willing people to come here in Kenya and help us to plant the seed of Gospel and salvation. We shall all be rewarded by our Savior when He comes back, for He will be with His reward to



give every man as his work shall be.

We thank God for having given Paul Stump this vision of spreading the Gospel in Kenya. We all also remember all brothers and sisters that have served in Kenya as missionaries. These are the people we shall live to commemorate in our mind: Rudy Shaffer, Verling Wolfe, Timothy Scofield, Jeremiah Johnson and Frank Shaffer together with their wives. They have been good to us and we pray God to bless them abundantly that they may come back sometime in the future to help us. Their presence here is vital and we still need them until we become strong.

Here in Kenya things are unlike America. A stranger coming here may find things difficult because we have forty-two tribes speaking different languages but we are all united together with two National languages — English and Swahili. We are used to this though it seems to hardly be understood by our visitors.

Our water here is very insufficient for human consumption. We are highly infected with water borne diseases whereby treatment is also expensive. We therefore thank you all for starting water projects in Kenya to insure that we receive clean water. This will make us healthy. In Kenya here, we do have tribal warfare whereby the armed tribes do attack other tribes for political reasons. There is hostility amongst tribes. Though the government is trying to preach peace, we hope God will bring peace.

Fredrick, Hosea and James, we, are all serving in a foreign district. We left our homes and are serving as local missionaries in another tribe's district. We are trying to preach unto them to forsake war and other evil and come to Christ.

We do feel and see that Satan is very strong here in Africa. Some tribes up until today have not heard the name of our Saviour, Christ Jesus. Some tribes are still worshipping gods. They regard their customs and traditional beliefs more than the doctrine of Jesus Christ. We do have a religion of devil worshipers here in Kenya. Therefore we have a very big task to rebuke demons and casting Satan out of people leading them to Christ. We do have witchdoctors here who are threatening to kill the saints and people are hostile to them. But for us, we do not fear them which kill the body because they have no power to be able enough to kill the souls.

People in Kenya do work and have different occupations. We have limited opportunities in government offices. People are mostly relying on manual work. Even after receiving an education, students are forced to go on handwork because of few employment opportunities. Surviving in Kenya depends on what you can do yourself. Because of poverty we are unable to have machinery to assist us in working. Our women are therefore forced to walk a long distance to fetch water, which they carry on their heads in pots.

We have tried to answer some questions that were asked by brother Timothy Scofield in his article of December 1998. We are very much grateful to hear that you are interested in what is happening in Kenya. We are looking forward to inform you much from Kenya.

May God bless you all.

Yours Faithfully:

Chairman - Hosea Ambundo

Secretary - James Musumba

Treasurer - Fredrick Ayoti

## **THERE BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD**

As I sit and ponder an article for the Monitor, my eyes fall on the local paper. Within its pages are many accounts of tragedy and sin.

There is the story of the drunkard convicted of vehicular manslaughter. As I ponder this I realize, "There but for the grace of God I go."

There is the story of the thief, caught for his crime, again I must acknowledge, "There but for the grace of God I go." Or maybe it's the embezzler punished for his greed, again, "There but for the grace of God I go." Humbling thoughts to be sure, yet God's Word tells us, "Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward." Job 5:7. "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies." Psalm 58:3.

The definition of grace is, "The unmerited love and favor of God toward mankind." The word, "unmerited" means to be undeserving

or unworthy of His love and favor.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom 5:8.

There was a certain man who made his living operating a draw-bridge. On one particularly fine morning he decided to take along his young son, whom he loved with all his heart. The two were happily enjoying themselves, and as trains would go by, he would lower the bridge, and as ships would pass he would raise it. A ship had just passed, and the father suggested to his son that they eat their lunch down by the river, and were soon skipping stones, and having one fine time. About the space of an hour had passed, when they heard a train whistle blow, the father looking up realized much to his horror, that he had forgotten to lower the bridge. So bidding his son to stay there, he ran up the hill to the controls. There was no time to lose, and upon reaching the controls he immediately grabbed the lever to lower the bridge. Out of the corner of his eye he saw something that sent cold raw fear coursing through his body. His young son was playing in the mighty gears of the bridge. The father screamed at his son to get away from the gears, but he could not hear. Looking back toward the train, he saw all the people, he knew their fate lay in his decision, and so with one last loving look at his son he turned his head and pulled the lever. As the train sped safely by, he raised his head to look at the people. They seemed unconcerned, did they not know I gave my only son for them! Did they not care I gave part of myself for them!

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

"There but for the grace of God go I."

In His service,  
Brother Stephen G. Aldinger



## AN'THE DEVIL'S GONNA' GITCHA EF YOU DON'T WATCH OUT!

Some of you may recognize the title as a play on a line in the poem "Little Orphant Annie". The title's in fun, but the truth is that too many Christians walk around feeling exactly that way!

I remember hearing people talking about this narrow path we are walking. They likened it to walking a high, narrow ridge with a drop-off on both sides. One wrong step and you will fall into gross sin. It's time we took our faith off our feet and put it on our Savior! If our eyes are on Him as they should be we will not have to worry about that wrong step. God has said that underneath are the everlasting arms. (Deut. 33:27) We abide under the shadow of His wings and in the palm of His hands. (Psa. 91) He has promised never to leave us or forsake us. (Heb. 13:5) He wants us to *abide in Him!* (John 15:4-7) Dear ones, if we are *IN HIM*, how can we fall off the ridge, unless He falls first? Can the peach pit fall to the ground so long as it's in the peach, unless the peach falls, too? Our "peach" is never going to fall. We have to quit worrying about falling, and start trusting in the truth. We will only fall off the ridge if we take our eyes off Jesus.

We all know the story of Peter walking on the water. What a wonderful allegory of our Christian life. While Peter's eyes were on the Lord, he walked in victory over the waves. When he took his eyes off Jesus and began looking at all the danger around him, he fell. We have to keep looking at Jesus! With our minds and our hearts fastened on Him, we can walk in victory over the waves of wickedness splashing around us. When we start concentrating on the *sin* and *evil* around us, our hearts become full of fear, and we fall into the waves of blackness.

Some people seem to think Christians are like a herd of cattle running scared in a corral. The devil's riding the horse and swinging the lariat. They are looking over their shoulders in fear it will be *their* neck it's going to drop around next. That's not a true picture of the Christian life. If we have committed our lives to Jesus and are living true to that commitment, then nothing can touch us, no evil can get us, unless it comes to us through God's allowance. It's not Cowboy Devil deciding whose hide to pack to market. It's not by



some freak chance or unfortunate accident that a certain cow gets "caught". We have to open the door to the devil before he can do anything more than tempt us.

Satan is very smart when it comes to dealing with Christians. There is more than one way to get someone into bondage. Some folks he binds into sinful actions; some folks he binds by taking hold of their minds. There are people who have spent a lot of time studying different strongholds of Satan in this world, so they can warn other Christians. Their intent was good, but there is only a certain amount of room in one's mind for thoughts. When their minds are caught up with thinking about evil, studying the darkness of this world, then there is not much room left for thinking about God. Instead of meditating on Him, their minds are busy thinking about staying free from the devil's clutches and evil curses. When our minds are off God and on to Satan, he can go take a vacation. He does not have to work on us anymore, because we are now working on ourselves, filling our minds with darkness and fear. It's a downward spiral into the pits of hell.

Too many folks today are walking around trapped in fear. Of course, the devil is something to be scared of. But some Christians are in bondage to a bone-shaking, soul-trembling kind of spiritual fear in which they are always looking around for what the devil's going to do to them next. Everything bad that happens in their life tends to be attributed to the devil. Their minds are filled with thoughts of evil, demons, witchcraft, and cures. The world becomes a very dark place. Jesus says He is the light of this world, and as Christians we should be filled with that light. The only way to have His light illuminating our path is if we keep our minds focused and our eyes stayed on Him. When we are walking in His light, we cannot be walking in spiritual fear.

Studying and discussing all the evil deeds and tactics of the devil isn't acting in obedience to the following verses: (Eph. 5:11-13) "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light."

Who did it? The last “bad” thing that happened to you — who did it? Some Christians are always blaming the devil for all their problems. If they had a flat tire on the way to church, the devil did it. If Johnny got the measles, the devil did it. If the cow chased them through the fence, the devil was chasing the cow. I think some folks blame the devil because they are afraid to blame God! Some folks blame the devil just because they are afraid. We need to be more careful about this. It may be more serious than we think. *Did* the devil do it? How do you know? What criteria do you go by to decide if it was the devil? In the book of Job, the devil could not do a thing to Job without God’s permission. Not one thing. God’s the one who brought Job to Satan’s attention! Looks to me like most of Job’s problems were all God’s fault in the first place!

Here’s what God has to say about Himself. (Deut. 32:39) “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.” (Ex. 4:11) “And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?” Who does? God does. Not the devil.

(I am no theologian, and I have not studied this subject in depth. I have just read the Bible, and tried to make some sense of “bad things happening to good people”. In my opinion, what I am saying here does not necessarily apply to unbelievers, for they are in the world and of the world, and Satan has been given dominion over the world. I am thinking only of Christians and their position as blood-bought children of God.)

God has promised to chastise us as sons, to conform us to the image of His Son, and that means everything’s not always going to be smooth sailing in our lives. Maybe the flat tire was part of His chastening...or the measles, or the cow. Dare we just always accuse the devil for our problems instead of considering God’s work in our lives? What about the good things that happen to us? Looks to me like if the bad can come from the devil, the good can, too. After all, he knows one of the best ways to keep a Christian from growing in God is to make him real comfortable right where he is.

When we start crediting God’s actions in our lives to the devil,

we are walking on dangerous ground. Remember what happened when the Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out devils by Beelzebub? (Mark 3:22-30) "And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils. And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan? And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end. No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house. Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit." (Eph. 4:30) "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed (stamped for security or preservation) unto the day of redemption." We need to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Don't be in danger of accusing the devil of something God has done *for* you! God is big enough to take the blame.

God tells us to be awake and watchful, but rather than *focusing* on Satan and his actions, we are just to *resist* him. (1 Pet. 5:8-9) "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith,..." (James 4:7) "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

I am not trying to make light of the devil and his power. He is real, he is dangerous, and he is powerful. He knows our weaknesses as humans, and plays with our minds and hearts every chance he gets. Our job is to make sure we do not give him the chance. We have to keep looking unto Jesus. Instead of running scared, we need to keep running with Him. Christ said that all power was given to Him in heaven and in earth (Matt. 28:18). If we are one with Him, abiding in Him, joint-heirs with Him, made holy by Him who has all power, whom have we to fear? (1 John 4:4) "...because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."



With our eyes looking to our Master, our ears tuned to the voice of the Shepherd, our minds stayed on the Word, our hearts filled with His love, and our strength used in His service, there will not be any room left to worry about the devil. (Phil. 4:7-8) "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Little Orphant Annie may have been mighty scared of the "gobble-uns" waiting to "gitcha", but we can walk in peace and joy, if our minds are stayed on Him.

Because of my love and concern for you,  
Sister Arlene Stamy  
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### **MY DAD WANTED ME TO SIN**

All manner of sin will not enter the Kingdom of God. For the Kingdom of God requires holiness, righteousness and perfection in all dealings, starting from the earth up to the destiny of eternal life. This is my belief as well as my faith. Anybody who does anything against the will of God is a sinner. There is no eternal life laid ahead of sinners. All of them will fall into eternal condemnation.

In the beginning I thought it was the duty of parents to teach their children the way to righteousness that they may not perish at the end. I even believed that the first person to insure that the child is comfortable throughout his life was the parent. But if the parent forgets his duty and task to teach his sons and daughters to know and do the will of God only to lead them astray, is he a good parent? Yes, I do agree with Ephesians 6:1-3 as stated, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Now if a parent wants you to obey him and sin unto God does he expect you to live longer either on earth or in heaven? And if I



want to live long on earth must I obey my parents in sin or in the Lord? And if dad prepares a hot soup to throw his children into, will he be allowed to step in the heavenly gates? For the Bible states clearly that we must obey our parents in the Lord — yes in the Lord but not in evil. I should not share evil with my parents, no matter whether they are kings or beggars.

If you realize that your parent is sending you into hell-express, the best thing to do is to act as Hosea and I did. Disobey and ignore him but insure you obey God in all things and all dealings. For it is better to be bad to men but to be good to God, though you might not live long on earth for disobeying your dad in his wicked ways, but you are assured of everlasting life if you remain in faith and righteousness. Even Jesus after struggling to do good to men and showing wonderful miracles to them, the Jews still never believed in Him so that they crucified Him on the cross. Therefore there is laid up ahead a golden crown of righteousness for everyone who will overcome all appearance of evil.

I am teaching, rebuking, reproving and correcting all parents who have these kinds of awkward and foolish attitudes of placing their sons in a dangerous position of no return. My dad and his second wife promised before God, Paul Stump and Rudy Shaffer to live a separate life as per the scripture. It is not the will of God for a man to have more than one wife. It is illegal to have two or more wives. My dad understood this scripture and decided to divorce his second wife. My dad had to go back to my mum and take her as his only wife. He had to support her and live in peace and give her comfort.

His second wife, Elimina, had to move out of my mother's land and find somewhere to stay. She complained bitterly about how she would survive. The Spirit of God entered two men of God, Paul Stump and Rudy Shaffer, who promised to support her as long as she lived a separate life. They had to help her as a widow indeed as recorded in the books of James 1:27 and I Timothy 5:3-5. Nobody knew the reason behind this separation of my dad and his second wife, but God.

It was until Hosea and I were elected leaders in the Kenya band that we knew the intention, purpose and the goals of our dad's sepa-

ration. On several occasions he discussed with me advising me how I can play tricks in support of him. He wanted us to cover him by hiding his sins from Paul Stump that they may be given a promised po2ho mill. He wanted me to sin unto God by deceiving Paul that they lived up to their promise while they were not. They wanted to take the land belonging to my mum and the po2ho mill altogether thinking that God was blind. I tried to imagine how he has been staying since he promised to divorce the second wife. Never since had he gone to my mum. It appeared as if he was being forced to love somebody he hated. And this made him to avoid her in all possible ways. He continued visiting his second wife frequently and Elimina could sometimes sneak into his house at Makutano. Were they faithful? Surprisingly Elimina continued receiving her monthly support from America. Paul Stump paid school fees for her children. She continued staying in my mum's land. She was now anxiously preparing to receive a po2ho mill to continue comforting herself while her fellow woman, the right wife to my dad, is miserably surviving in stony areas. No food, no milk and no anything. And here my dad is persuading me to lie and cheat to the American board that they are living to their promise. Does it sound good? Must I lie for me to be blessed? Must I deceive God to get good. Yes, she had to move first then be supported, but she changed this and she wanted a po2ho mill before she moves out of this land. Yes, she never attended church services though she was supported monthly. She only came whenever she heard that somebody from America had come. Is this honesty?

"My dear children you are leaders of Dunkard Brethren Church. I request you to cooperate with me. Support me in everything so that we may get a po2ho mill. Don't take my nakedness and expose it to people. These whitemen will soon fly back to America, let us benefit from them before they go. Cover me under an umbrella that nobody may see me but you. We shall all benefit when this po2ho mill comes." My dear reader, can you hear this words from my dad? Is this encouraging to him that is seeking the kingdom of God?

When I heard these words from him and understood his game I told him No! No! My dad! I am not ready to enter into an avoidable sin like this. I am not going to obey you in that kind of a frauding

game. Can you be convinced with your dad to sin? My dad forgot that every soul that sinneth shall be destroyed. Ezekiel 20:18-21. I told him that I was elected Dunkard leader to be a faithful leader and teach others like you to forsake evil and do good. I am not ready to earn good on earth by deceiving and perish forever. Disown me, but I thank God because Psalm 27:10 records that when my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.

I am now in the Lord, serving Him with all of my mind, my strength and with all my heart, waiting patiently on His great day. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." James 1:12. "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." I Peter 5:4.

May you all readers help me to pray for my dad who has backslid that he may change his ways and come to the Lord once again before Christ comes back. And pray for me that I may have strength for being forsaken and becoming a dadless chap.

May God bless you all as you pray for us here in Kenya.

Your desperate Servant,  
Brother James Musumba  
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Kapenguria, Kenya, EA

## THE LONELY WALK

Mark 4:19, "And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful."

A day does not go by that we wonder why more people do not enter into the Christian walk with us. Yet we know why, as the Bible verse above points out. Yet, as Christians, we reach out in love to many and bring forth God's Word in a loving manner, and see little in the way of results.

We can look back at Noah and see how he preached for many years. While he preached, he built the ark as a testimony to the



words that he spoke. That ark became the vessel that saved him and his family. He took no others aboard but his family, and the Lord shut the door.

We also can read about the apostles, who all gave their lives for the cause of Christ save one, and he was exiled. Paul, an apostle out of time, declared in Galatians 6:17, "From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." Nothing in the world would be able to distract Paul from his walk with Christ because Paul had been tortured, stoned, left for dead, and had been scourged for Christ. He also, like Jesus, had been betrayed by false brethren. The things of this world meant little to him, because he had been with Jesus and had part in "the fellowship of his sufferings."

This "suffering" is what repels many. In John 6 we read that Christ's teachings began to get difficult for many. Verses 66-68, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." In the next chapter it was said that, "Never man spake like this man." Many went back and stopped following Jesus, but there were a few who stayed. The few were captivated by the words of Jesus.

In Genesis we read of Abraham and Lot, who both had flocks. Lot chose the better grazing land, yet his land bordered Sodom. Abraham allowed Lot to choose. The land Abraham received may have been worse land for the sheep, but it was better spiritually for Abraham. For Lot, "the lusts of other things entering in" did him in.

Perhaps many of us need to consider if we are truly walking with Jesus. We can have our name on a church roll and still be following the world. Man, indeed, looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart. Today, as every day, we must examine ourselves, to see if we really are in the faith.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
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## BUT YE HAVE AN UNCTION FROM THE HOLY ONE

"But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things." I John 2:20.

The word "unction" could also be translated "anointing" or "charisma." The same root word is found in verse 27 of this chapter where it is translated "anointing."

There are four areas of the Christian life where the unction of the Holy Spirit is needed. We need the unction of the Holy One to **pray** with power. The early Brethren often prayed with arms lifted toward Heaven, desiring that the Holy Spirit would pray through them, giving them the words to say. In many church services prayer is merely a formal repetition of phrases and words. We confess a weakness in this area both in public and private prayer.

We need the unction of the Holy One to **preach**. When the Holy Scripture says, "and ye know all things," it does not mean that men can acquire all knowledge and become omniscient as God is, but that the Holy Spirit reveals all things of spiritual truth. The reason why there are so many different interpretations of Holy Scripture is because we most often rely upon the wisdom of man rather than the leading of the Holy Spirit. While we do not believe it is wrong to use a commentary, we can never consider the writer to be infallible. Some preachers are now using a computer to prepare their sermons. Here again it is not wrong, in our opinion, to use a computer to outline your sermon or even print it out in full. However, we have read that there are "aids" for sermon preparation to be found on computer outlets. As with the commentaries, this can be dangerous if not used with discernment from the Holy Spirit.

We need the unction of the Holy One to **prophecy**. While the word "prophecy" in the New Testament can be in the same sense as "preach" we believe it can also mean to testify. We believe this is the meaning in I Corinthians 11:5, "But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoreth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven." While we do not believe God calls a woman to preach, since the Bible forbids this, both men and women have the privilege and responsibility to testify to the work of the Holy Spirit in their life. We often spend much time telling others of our Church and what we believe and that is not all bad.

However, we are not to testify about the Church but about the Lord Jesus Christ and His power to save.

This brings us to our last thought on this subject. We need the unction of the Holy One to **propagate** the glorious Gospel. Today there are many and various methods being used to propagate the Gospel. Many missionary efforts and local churches are using films for this endeavor. Singing groups and individual singers ranging from traditional gospel songs to so called "hard rock Christian music" claim to be propagating the Gospel. There are "Christian magicians", "Christian puppeteers", and "Christian play performers" along with "Christian dancers" who also claim to be a part of propagating the Gospel. Whether or not any of these methods ever bring someone to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ we leave in the hand and wisdom of God. Not one of them can be found within the pages of Holy Scripture and, we believe, most of them are actually condemned there.

On page 666 of the Brethren Hymnal, used by the Dunkard Brethren, we find the song "Holy Manna". The chorus goes like this,

"All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down.

Brethren pray, and holy manna will be showered all around."

If the Holy Spirit were in control, we believe there would be very little, if any, quarreling among the brothers and sisters. We believe our ministers and elders would proclaim the truth without fear of men and in the fear of God. We, personally, believe that very few of our Brethren traditions would be challenged. We also believe that many of our identification practices would have been retained if the Holy Spirit would have been in control.

Only the unction of the Holy Spirit can bring conviction to a soul. May both sinner and Saint be led by this power sent from God. Let each of us respond in a personal way.

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## GOD IS IN CONTROL

Y2K: What is it and what can it do?

I Corinthians 1:26-31, "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

Let us glory in the Lord Jesus Christ who is our Savior, and is in control.

Y2K is something we are hearing much about in the news lately. It is a name for a computer problem called a "bug". The Y stands for the year and K for thousand. Back when the computer was first engineered, they did not have a lot of memory to work with in the chips they were programming. The date in the ROM (Read Only Memory) part of the computer was programmed with two digits for the year; not four like the new computers are today. The problem will be that on January 1, 2000, the computer will see 1900, not 2000.

The next problem is that not all programmers were told how to write programs to work around this problem. As a result, their programs look at the date and time chip to perform the program's calculations, not just time data that is needed for the calculations. The real problem is in small circuit boards that are programmed once and sold in mass quantity. They are bought by manufacturers who need cheap controlling boards for such things as stop lights, elevators, satellites, and so forth. Like all items on the market, there is a good, better, and best quality. The "good" seems to have most of the problems, and more are sold because they cost less.

Y2K is one of the things to confound the wise. Just two digits in a computer program are making the world fearful of computers and



all they control. God is in control and wants us to fear and worship Him only.

We use and carry a token of our faith every day. All United States currency is inscribed with the saying, "In God We Trust." When we use this currency, we show our trust in God, our government, and each other. Do not let the fear mongers steal that faith from us with this Y2K panic. If we lose this faith in God, our government, and each other, we truly will have chaos. II Tim. 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Will the Y2K bug really cause bad things to happen? It's hard to say, but the possibility is there. Mostly it will pop up with little inconveniences from everyday things that make life easier for us. Like the story in Matthew 25, Jesus tells of the ten virgins, five wise and five foolish. Five took extra oil and five did not. The five wise were preparing for a long night. The others only took their lamps. Jesus tells us to watch and pray. To always be ready because we do not know the time of His return.

So do we run to the hills? Not in most cases. First we need to look at why we are here. I believe our purpose for being on earth is to share the story of Jesus and His love for each one of us. We need to be ready to help those who are looking for answers and ways to calm their fears. What better time to share the love and peace of Jesus Christ? Also, like the wise virgins, we need to look ahead and be ready for a long night. In western Kansas a blizzard can blow in without much warning. They have been known to snow us in for a day or two. An inconvenience if you are ready, but a possible disaster if not. I believe Y2K could create short term inconveniences but it is up to us how we handle it.

Most important, is your heart Y2K compliant? God is in control. Cast your cares on Him for He careth for you.

Love in Christ Jesus,  
Brother Roy Litfin

## ARE WE SAYING, "YES," TO GOD?

(Who? What? Where? When? Why?)

Bro. William Heisey

I thought that I would speak this evening on the subject, "Are we saying "Yes," to God's will? There are a lot of people who seemingly do not want to say "Yes" to God's will. They excuse themselves from doing God's will in their life.

I John 2:15-17, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

Certainly there is a lot of truth in those few verses. We should not love the things of the world but the things of God. If we are going to be a child of God, then we have to say "Yes," to God's will in our lives. Too many times instead of saying, "Yes," to God's will, we say if I can do this or that, first. Maybe after I become older in life, then I will serve the Lord. If we are going to be a true child of God we have to take the excuses out of our lives.

We might think of who is included in God's will. Each one of us is included. He says whosoever will, let him take up the cross and follow me. We have to do our part. We have to seek the Lord and be willing to be submissive to Him.

We read in II Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-word, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

We know that God, through Christ, has done all that He can do, for us. He accomplished the mission His Father sent Him to do. He gave up His life on the cross that we might have life. He has gone back to the Father to intercede in our behalf. He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. That shows to us that He is willing to do His part and that He has done His part that we might find eternal life.

Psalm 103: 8-10. "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plentiful in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will He keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; or rewarded us according to our iniquities."

We see the Psalmist, David, realized that God is merciful, gracious and slow to anger. He says, He will not always chide neither will He keep His anger forever. We are told in God's Word that there is a judgment day coming. There is a time when we will have to answer for the things that we do here in life. Certainly I believe that He brings that thought out in these verses. "He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities." In other words He is longsuffering toward us.

In Hebrews 10: 36-37, we read, "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry."

I believe that the Psalmist David, was looking forward to the time when the Lord will come to judge His people. Paul tells the Hebrew children that He will come and not tarry. When the time is ripe, whenever our Heavenly Father sees fit, He will send His Son back to earth again. Rev. 22:17, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come, And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Showing to us that Salvation is free. It is there for our taking. All we need to do is to live upright lives and believe the truths of God's Word.

The What of God's will. Eph. 5:15-17, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." I think we all know what the will of the Lord is. He wants us to be a child of His. He wants us to live up-right lives and serve Him. Certainly we can be His children if we allow our Lord and Saviour to direct our lives. The devoted Christian should want to know God's will for his life. I believe all of us have that desire to do God's will. To do God's will we need to talk to Him in prayer. We need to keep in close communion with our Heavenly Father if we want to know the will of our Lord and Saviour.



I John 5:14-15, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." John is bringing the thought to our minds that if we keep in close communion with our Heavenly Father we will trust Him to work out His perfect will in our lives.

Hebrews 13:20-21, "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Here again, he has stated the necessity of doing God's will. If we expect to be children of His we have to be obedient. We realize that we falter and fall short from time to time, but we have an advocate with the Father through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, so that our sins can be forgiven. We show our willingness to do His will by our good works, then we are saying, "Yes," to God's will.

The Where of God's will. I Tim. 2:8, "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." We cannot have hatred in our hearts and serve God. We cannot have enemies and be pleasing to God. If we have those who are seemingly enemies, we must try to make peace with them and get things squared away, in a Christian manner.

John 4:21-24, "Jesus, saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship; for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Christ is telling this Samaritan woman that she is going to have to change her life. She is going to have to accept Him as her Saviour and follow Him. True worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. He is trying to lead her to the Father, who is in Heaven.

The When of God's will. Eph. 1:9, "Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself." In other words, we have to say, "Yes," to God's will along with obeying His commands that He puts before us. A good many Christians want God's will in their lives, but insist that it be performed at their appointed time. We said in the beginning some seemingly want to please God, they want to be a child of God, but they want to do it in their own time. They say, "Maybe in my later years, I am young and I am going to have a good time, and enjoy myself," but God says, "Now is the appointed time." So we cannot put it off. We do not know when death will overtake us, maybe through an accident, or sickness, or whatever. When death stops at our door, then it's time. The Lord is calling us home. If we are not ready and have not made the right plans and accepted Christ as our Saviour, we are not ready to go to meet our Master.

Psalms 27:14, "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." If we wait on the Lord and we listen to His Word, He will tell us what we should do in order to please Him and certainly He expects us to do it. We might compare this thought with the use of a credit card. All of us, adults anyway, know about credit cards. We can have a credit card and buy on time and pay later. That is not the way God deals. He wants us to be obedient children unto Him and obey Him, now, in the present time. If we are not ready when the Lord calls us home, we are indebted to Him and we are not paid up. It's too dangerous for us to think that we will accept Christ later in life. Too many times we do not have that opportunity. II Cor. 6:2, "...now is the accepted time; behold, how is the day of salvation." When that time comes, we must be ready. The way people in general are living, it is a wonder God still showers down His blessings. We realize that there is a lot of wickedness going on in the world around us. We as Christians should not take part in it. The Christian people are outnumbered by the people who are living wicked, adulterous lives. America is known as a Christian nation. How long will the Lord continue to bless our nation in its present evil state?

The Why of God's will. This question is the most difficult for us to understand. We do not always understand the reason God allows things to happen to us. We realize that often accidents, sick-

ness, and trouble of various kinds come across our pathway. If we are living upright lives and still these adverse happenings cause us to feel that God is not with us, we know that God has a purpose in it. The experiences are for our good. We should dismiss the thought that God is not with us and think of the blessings that God has given us from time to time.

We think of Job and how difficult his life was. He had everything taken away from him in his earlier life. His family was taken away, his wife wanted him to curse God and die, and he was covered with boils from the top of his head to the soles of his feet. Still he did not turn against God. He said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." I believe that is a good way for us to look at our lives when things come across our path that we feel we do not deserve. I believe that the Lord has a lesson for us. There is a better time coming. "There waits for us a glad tomorrow."

I Peter 3:17, "For it is better if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, then for evil doing." If we review our lives and realize that we have been living up-right lives and cannot understand why some of these experiences come upon us, remember that God has a purpose in it. It may be a lesson for us to learn or He may be trying to lead us in a different direction.

Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." The Apostle Paul in writing to the Romans brings out the thought that all things work together for good, if we only have the right attitude and trust the Lord.

So we should say, "Yes," to God's will regardless whether it is satisfactory with us or not. We must press on. We must take up our cross and follow Christ.

Transcribed by Sister Maxine Surbey

## MEETING NOTICES

March 14-21 - Revival Meeting, Plevna, Indiana

March 24-April 4 - Revival Meeting, Lititz, Pennsylvania

April 2-3 - Second District Meeting, Plevna, Indiana



April 2-4 - Fourth District Meeting, Pleasant Home, California

April 4-11 - Revival Meeting, Dallas Center, Iowa

April 9-10 - First District Meeting, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

April 10 - Third District Meeting, Dallas Center, Iowa

April 11-18 - Revival Meeting, Bethel, Pennsylvania

April 25-May 2 - Revival Meeting, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania

### LOVEFEAST NOTICES

March 13 - Hart, Michigan

March 20 - Plevna, Indiana

April 3 - Pleasant Home, California

April 10 - Dallas Center, Iowa

April 17 - Grandview, Missouri

April 24 - West Fulton, Ohio

April 25 - Bethel, Pennsylvania

May 2 - Waynesboro, Pennsylvania

May 15 - Dayton, Virginia

May 16 - Lititz, Pennsylvania

May 23 - Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

### NEWS ITEMS

#### MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGES

##### Addition to Ministerial List:

David Reece (M), 1341 Bennett Road, Modesto, CA 95358. Telephone: 209-529-2741.

##### Address Change:

The address of Bro. Eldon Mallow has been changed to: 467 Miller Road, Clearville, PA 15535. The telephone number remains the same.

## NOTICE

All business for General Conference needs to be in my hands by April 15, 1999. Thank you, Writing Clerk, General Conference,

Bro. Robert Lehigh

R.7 Box 7840

Spring Grove, PA 17362

717-225-4928

## QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Congregation plans to hold our Spring Lovefeast meetings on March 19, 20 and 21. Services begin Friday evening at 7:30 P.M. with a preaching service and will continue throughout the weekend. Communion Service will be Saturday evening. We invite all to come and worship with us during these services.

Sister Ruthie Clark, Cor.

## LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz Congregation welcomes you to Revival Meetings held March 26 through April 4. Brother Wayne Burgess is the evangelist. Services are 9:30 A.M. Sundays and 7:30 P.M. each evening. Please come and please pray for us.

Sister Arlene Birt, Cor.

## PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans to have a Lovefeast Saturday, March 27, with further services on Sunday, March 28.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

## DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Bro. Paul Skiles will be holding Revival Meetings April 4 through April 11 at Dallas Center. There will be a Lovefeast Service, Satur-

day, April 10. Please pray for these meetings and attend if you can.

Sister Mary Sue Moss, Cor.

### BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, Bethel Congregation will have Revival Meetings April 11 through 18 with Bro. Len Wertz as our evangelist.

Mindy Mallow has been baptized since last writing. Pray that we acknowledge Him in each step we make. Come. Pray for our services.

Sister Fern Wolfe, Cor.

### GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Congregation plans to have our spring Lovefeast one week earlier than usual. The new dates are April 17 and 18. On Saturday, April 17 we will have services at 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Lovefeast service will be at 6:00 P.M. On Sunday, April 18, we will have services at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. All are encouraged and welcome to come and worship with us during these services.

Sister Deena Andrews, Cor.

### WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing the Waynesboro Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meeting, starting April 25 and ending with a Lovefeast on May 2. Bro. Mark Andrews will be our evangelist. Thank you for remembering these services, the speaker and the congregation in prayer that the Lord's will be done. We extend a hearty invitation to come worship with us.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

### HART, MICHIGAN

Hart Congregation is growing in different ways...one is the church building which has been worked on and is now under roof. We were blessed with a group of Brethren from Iowa in December who came and worked hard in the cold to put up the insulation. It's much



warmer now...thank you Brethren!! Bro. Ray Noecker and Bro. James Noecker have done a fine job of coordinating the work thus far. We deeply appreciate all the help from all the districts that have put effort in coming to help. The church is very warm, and is progressing at a moderate pace. The Lord has been good!

The second way we have been blessed is three little babies. The James Noecker family have added to their family a little girl, Ruth Anne, in June 1998. Jeremiah and Debra Johnson have been blessed with a little boy, Micaiah Joel Johnson, December 2, 1998. Kevin and Dorothy Haines have just been blessed with a new little girl, Rebecca Marie, January 2, 1999.

Sister Anna M. Powell, Cor.

### THANK YOU

Dear Brethren and Sisters,

We want to thank each one of you who took time to make a page in our Memory Book, started at Conference time. The pictures, and your thoughts, made us feel like we were there with you. We thought about you, the messages, and the Lord's work, often those days as we were usually there each year.

Jake's birthday cards brightened his days for a couple weeks at mail time. Thank you very much, it was a bright light, and a blessing to him for many days. God bless you for caring. We continue to need your prayers.

Brother and Sister Jake Ness

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1999

April 4 - The Importance Of The Resurrection - I Cor. 15:1-34.

1. What is the importance of the resurrection to the Christian faith.
2. What is meant by the statement about Christ becoming "The firstfruits of them that slept?"

April 11 - A Sinner Washes Jesus' Feet - Luke 7:24-50.

1. How can "He that is least in the kingdom of God" be greater than John the Baptist?
2. Explain the connection of love and the forgiveness of sin.

April 18 - Parable Of The Soils - Luke 8:1-25.

1. Of what importance is hearing to receiving the seed which is the Word of God?
2. What more than hearing must be done to bring forth fruit?

April 25 - A Visit To Gadarenes - Luke 8:26-48.

1. How could the man possessed with devils know Jesus was the Son of God?
2. Why did Jesus grant the request of the demons to enter into the swine?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1999**

April 4 - Spiritual Blindness - Isa. 59:1-10, Matt. 6:22-24, II Cor. 4:3-6, Eph. 4:17-24.

1. How is spiritual blindness actually the absence of light?
2. Explain blindness of the mind and blindness of the heart.

April 11 - Raising Of Lazarus - John 11:1-45.

1. Why did Jesus weep?
2. Compare the rising of Lazarus to the resurrection of Jesus.

April 18 - The Resurrection - Luke 24:1-31.

1. Why was the stone rolled away from the sepulchre?
2. Why did the Apostles not believe the words of the women who had returned from the sepulchre?

April 25 - Charity - I Cor. 13, I Peter. 4:1-10.

1. How important is charity to the Christian faith?
2. Explain, "Charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

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# BIBLE MONITOR

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APRIL 1999

NO. 4

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## OLIVE'S BROW

'Tis midnight, and on Olive's brow,  
The star is dimmed that lately shone;

'Tis midnight, in the garden now,  
The suffering Savior prays alone.

'Tis midnight—and, from all removed,  
Immanuel wrestles lone, with fears,  
E'en the disciple that he loved  
Heeds not his Master's grief and tears.

'Tis midnight—and, for others' guilt,  
The man of sorrows weeps in blood;  
Yet he, who hath in anguish knelt,  
Is not forsaken by his God.

'Tis midnight—and, from either plains,  
Is borne the song that angels know;  
Unheard by mortals are the strains  
That sweetly soothe the Savior's woe.

-William Bingham Tappan

## DOING WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

In the Garden of Gethsemane, the greatest crisis in the history of mankind took place. As Jesus prayed, the Spiritual fate of the world hung in the balance. As Jesus' humanity shrunk from the task set before Him, the sharing of God's mercy to mankind was almost thwarted. As He faced this supreme challenge, He overcame the flesh's reluctance to face the cross. His Father's will became more important to Him than His suffering. As He yielded to His Father's will, an unappreciative human race was given an opportunity to enjoy the Father's mercy. No other offering could bring God's eternal plan of salvation into operation.

As Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but thine be done," He consented to the plan that God had formulated even before the foundations of the earth were laid. The miracle of His birth had wrapped His godly nature in the human flesh of the Babe of Bethlehem. He had tasted the life of man as a man. He had known hunger, thirst and other physical discomforts. He had known the temptations faced by men, but had overcome Satan's wily tricks. In this crisis hour, He was identified with man's fear of pain. He knew the pain of crucifixion would be extreme. He wished that the cup of suffering might pass from Him. Still, He was resigned to His Father's will.

If He had not yielded there would not have been a plan of salvation. A perfect Passover offering was needed. Only He could fulfill that Old Testament type. Despite His human misgivings and fears,

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He yielded. He was willing to be the sacrifice for the benefit of all. He would do what needed to be done. He would fulfill His Father's will, which brought Him great joy. Too often a duty can seem hard and difficult, but Jesus did His duty for the joy that was set before Him.

Not only was God's plan of salvation implemented, He also left an example for His followers. He participated in several services to establish the ordinances for His followers to do. He allowed John the Baptist to baptize Him. He did not need baptism, for He had no sins to be remitted, but He knew that that was not the case with men. All men were sinners, so they needed the ordinance of baptism. He left an example. He, as Master, did not need to wash His disciples' feet, but He did. He told them what He had done for them they should do in the future for each other. If He could humble Himself to wash their feet, should it be so hard for men to humble themselves to wash one another's feet? In His submission to the Father's will in the Garden of Gethsemane, He left an example of doing what needs to be done for His disciples to follow throughout history.

It is not only in the Church's ordinances, nor the direct commands of the Lord, but in all areas of services where the Christian is called to do his duty. Often it is easy to reason away the duties that come to us. Our duty to the poor can be rationalized away by saying they are only poor through their own fault. Our duty to the wayward may be minimalized by leaving it to the officials or by thinking that what we would say would not do any good. Our duty to evangelize may be short-circuited by leaving it for the missionaries or by thinking that we could do no good. Our duty to the troubled, grieving, sick, and lonely is set aside as we rush through the busyness of life. Any other duties that might be ours can be put away by rationalization, disregard, or inattention.

Christians have duties that go beyond the duties of other people. The Christian not only has the example of Jesus as a guide, but also the love of God and direction of the Holy Spirit to lead them into service for others. Others do not understand that Christians have a Heaven-directed duty to love their enemies, to do good to all that they can, and to carry out the mission of the Church. The duty of each believer may differ according to the talents and oppor-

tunities that are given to him. Not all are prepared for the same type of work, but each is called to do what he is able to do. There is no profit in comparing the service of one with another, for each must do what he can.

The Lord never asks more of a man than what He knows that man is capable of doing. Many times we are not aware of the resources that He has given us, so we are able to do more than what we think we can do. He simply asks us to be willing to go and do as He leads us.

Jesus, in His great prayer of passion in the Garden of Gethsamene, fought the frightened feelings of His humanity, that He might go forward to do His Father's will. God's will is before His followers today. What are you doing about fulfilling His will? Are you willing to do what needs to be done?

M.C.Cook

## WHO CHANGED?

Often when discussing issues of what people in a plain church should wear, the point is made that, in public, plain women stand out but plain men blend in. Then sometimes the complaint is made that women sacrifice their physical appearance but the men do not. Should we as a denomination adopt some sign of religious conviction for men such as the traditional beard or suspenders or flat straw hat or broadfall pants? I do not think so. Some Biblical premise could be made for a beard but the hat, suspenders and pants are only things of tradition.

So why should the women make the sacrifice of physical appearance while the men blend in with the heathen? I believe it is because the women in our culture have strayed so far from God's plan for them that when a woman follows God's plan for her appearance, she sticks out in public. On the other hand, men in our culture have not strayed so drastically away from God's plan for their physical appearance. Men do not wear women's clothes. Men generally remove their hats in public prayer, during the national anthem and when entering public buildings. A modestly dressed man is noticed little at the park or on a summer city street when

others may be wearing abbreviated clothes. The common man is often found dressed modestly in most public places. Fine attire for men covers their bodies in layers. A standing collar coat is noticed a little bit when among others wearing ties or tuxedos. The contrast between being plain and what the world expects is greater for women.

It is assumed that a woman will wear men's clothes. Some women do not even own a dress. Most women do not cover their head even when it is cold unless it is fashionable or cute to do so. A modestly dressed woman is out of place at the park, discount store or lumber yard. She surely must have come straight from some other place and had not time to change her clothes. Fine attire for women is usually creatively immodest and revealing. The next time you are at a store, survey the magazine rack (men have your wives do this). Count the number of immodest women and compare to the number of immodest men on the covers. The immodesty of women is much more expected, accepted and desired than the immodesty of men.

Why have women strayed farther from God's plan for their appearance than men? I believe it is just one of Satan's methods to destroy the family. He wants to disrupt the protection of the authority structure designed by God. Satan denies God's authority over him. He slipped past God and Adam and went straight to Eve. The prayer veil is the most conspicuous part of a plain woman's attire. Besides being worn in time of prayer, it is a sign that she is submitting to her authority, her husband. The modern woman ultimately submits to no one. Not her husband. Not her parents. Not her unborn child. Not to God. She wears the pants, she decides. She is even taught that she is God. When the family fails, so does the church, the school, the town, the nation. A simple but effective plan.

What is God's plan for the appearance of Godly men and women? Let us look at the scriptures.

Deut. 22:5, "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God."

Women should not wear men's clothes such as jeans, pants, shirts, hats, suit coats, vests or T-shirts. Our men do not wear suit



coats with lapels. Why should our women wear blazers with lapels at all? T-shirts are really men's underwear and should not be worn at all by ladies and only under a shirt by men.

Prov. 31:17a, 22, 25a, "She girdeth her loins with strength,...She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple...Strength and honour are her clothing;..."

This passage suggests a covering besides the clothes themselves. A cape dress or sweater provides this double covering for women. A vest would do this for men without being too warm.

Isa. 3:18-24, "In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, The rings, and nose jewels, The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the vails. And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty."

Definitions: cauls - hairnets; tire - pendent; muffler - long flowing veil; tablets - beads; mantle - cloak; wimple - wide cloak; glass - mirror.

Women should not wear jewelry or any extra clothing that serves only to draw attention to herself including lace and perfume. Do not wear harlot's clothing. The opposite of changeable suits of apparel would be one dress pattern only and not variety to imagination's end. What about a well-set pouf? It can make a plain girl very pretty. Should you so tempt the eyes and mind of men?

Isa. 47:2b-3a, "...uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen:..."

Men and women need to keep their bodies covered. Make sure dresses and sleeves are long enough to cover. Clothing should be loose and not tight or fitted and material should not be transparent so that a man's or woman's shape and/or undergarments are not

revealed.

Jer. 4:30, "And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life."

Part of a harlot's appearance is the painting of the face. Do not wear make up. You are beautiful just the way you are. I do not fully understand why red is always associated with harlots but avoid material that is mainly red and bold prints for shirts and dresses.

Ezk. 23:40, "And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintest thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments."

The light of the body is the eye. Do not put make up around your eyes.

I Cor. 11:4-5, 14-15, "Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven...Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering."

We are to be instant in prayer. Women should be covered at all possible waking hours so as to be ready. Men should avoid hats for the same reason. Protect yourself from the weather but be ready for prayer and do not follow fashion. Men have short hair. Women have long hair.

I Tim. 2:9-10, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

I Pet. 3:3-4, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which

is in the sight of God of great price."

Put on a meek and quiet spirit, good works, strength, honour, and modest apparel.

As we dress our children, should we not maintain the same standard for them as for ourselves? Avoid the lace and curls and bows and ties on our children that we would not wear ourselves. Teach them in all ways what you believe without exception and with consistency.

It is possible to dress godly and be a reprobate, but is it possible to be godly and dress reprobate? I have been warned of a wolf in sheep's clothing but not of a sheep in wolf's clothing. If a man is a hypocrite because he appears godly and is a reprobate, he should change his heart and not his clothes.

Is this an advertisement for the "Dunkard Kit" or "Seven Steps to Righteousness" or "Dressing for Heaven"? I pray that you do not see it as such. Being a Christian or plain is much more than a certain look. It is also belief in Christ and Him crucified. It is believing in the whole Bible as God's Word. It is belief in creation, in warring not with the flesh and blood, in Christ's second coming and watching and praying.

At the beginning of this article I asked who changed? Yes, it seems that in physical appearance women have a tough struggle to do what God intends. We, men, also have a battle to be the Godly leaders of the home, that Satan so desires to destroy.

Pray, repent, sin no more, watch and pray, be one, be the body, be the bride, be ready.

God's Peace  
Brother Tim Scofield

## HOW TO OFFER ENCOURAGEMENT

I Cor. 13:11-13, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these



three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

I was watching our children awhile back. It brought to mind my actions as a child. Looking back, I recall how I could use a little word or phrase or even just a sound to irritate, frustrate, or enrage my brother, sister or playmate (aha, the tools of the trade to control my adversary). I also remember that if I did something wrong and did not want anyone to find out, I would point out everyone else's faults in hopes they would look more guilty than I. It seemed that the worse my crime, the more nit-picky I would become toward other's faults. Of course, we adults do not do that anymore.

Another common occurrence was to change the rules of the game as we played. Whoever was calling the shots always made the rules fit his handicap. If you did not like the rules you could not play. When will that idea ever change? “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Likewise, all of us need the grace of God, the story of salvation, the blood of Jesus to wash away all our sins. All of us need encouragement to keep on the right path. No one needs to be put out of the game.

So how do we get to the point where we are able to offer encouragement? By experience I know we are able to pick each other apart. Well, first things first. Put away childish things. Put away the desire to nit-pick. Next, when we clean the house, we need to fill our mind and soul with good things. Only the Holy Spirit is able to fill us with the love and patience we need to offer true encouragement to others. God has given each of us spiritual gifts to use in different ways to offer encouragement.

See how easy it was to remember what little things irritated our brother or sister? That same gift can be used to remember what little things will offer encouragement. It's the little things that make a big difference. How do we learn the little things about our brother or sister? It takes fellowship and sometimes a long period of time, to see why things are done the way they are, or what it takes to offer encouragement.

The art of conversation truly is a gift. The same phrase with different tones will be interpreted differently from one person to the next. Someone who has a low self-esteem understands words differently than a person with a high self-worth. Only God can see the

heart, so we need to be careful what words we use and how we use them. Yes, with the help of the Holy Spirit we can offer a timely word of encouragement to our brother or sister.

As a child we want to tell them now, and in my way, no matter if someone gets hurt. With God it is His way and His timing that works best.

Guilt sure has a way with us. It's always someone else who is at fault in the stories we see throughout the Bible, and even today. Just like children at play, is there really any other reason but the guilt of sin that drives us to judge those around us?

We see the signs around us, "WWJD." What Would Jesus Do? He came to save the lost and make a way of escape for those in temptation. Jesus says to leave the judging to Him. Jesus also says, "Let him that is without sin cast the first stone." Sure, we will see sin around us, but is it up to us to cast stones? Or should we follow Jesus' example and offer a way of escape?

How many of you have sat down to a game of checkers or chess and discover that the person looking over your shoulder sees the better move? Sin works the same way in our lives. Whoever is looking over our shoulder can see the little sins we overlook. How do we communicate the information we know? My way or Jesus' way? Do we communicate with tactfulness and grace, or like a bulldozer that leaves a scar for life?

John 21:25, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen." Jesus not only ministered to the multitude but Jesus ministered one on one with more people than could be recorded on paper. Jesus is truly awesome.

We have all agreed to follow Matthew 18 as our guideline in getting along with our Christian family. First, it tells us we need to trust God with a heart of a child. Then it warns us not to offend the little ones. Next it is like putting away childish things. It is better to live without some things than to die with all your toys. Children are important to God; again a warning not to despise one of the little ones. I believe even the young in faith, no matter what age they are need the same care. Matthew 18 goes on to tell how each one

of us is important to God in that He will do all that can be done to bring the lost home.

Next we read the steps to follow if we have been offended. Too bad we do not have the patience of Jesus, because we would never need to go beyond a one on one relationship with any problem. Verses 18, 19 and 20 give the theme of this chapter. "...Whatsoever you bind on earth is bound in heaven: and whatsoever you loose on earth you will loosed in heaven." What is it that we need to release or loose more than anything else? To forgive others so that we may receive the forgiveness we need.

The chapter goes on to tell us the seriousness of offering forgiveness. Not just seven times or even seventy times seven but be able to forgive always.

Matthew 18 finishes up with the need to forgive. You know what? You need to love in order to show forgiveness.

I John 4:15-21, "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."

Now where is that toy box to put my childish things into?

Love in Christ Jesus  
Brother Roy Litfin

## **FORGIVENESS**

Grudge not thy brothers failings,  
Nor ever be the one  
To hurl a stone at anything



That he has ever done.  
Scorn not his humble efforts,  
Nor cast him to the ground,  
He may have just discovered  
What thou hast never found.

Harden not thy heart to tears  
That often flow unbidden,  
From lonely hearts within whose depths  
So much of love is hidden,  
Set not thyself as model,  
Above thy fellowmen,  
For charity can open doors,  
That prides key never can.

Be not so self-righteous,  
Thy foot can also fall  
No man who lives, is blameless,  
For sin has touched us all.  
And God alone must judge us,  
No man has been assigned.  
Because the Lord alone can see  
Within your heart...and mine.

Who is there among us who does not need forgiveness? Rom. 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

We all need to ask for forgiveness, which may be freely given, but there are conditions which must be met.

Even Pharaoh asked for forgiveness, and the locusts were taken away, but he continued to resist God in not letting the children of Israel go. Ex. 10:16-20.

Joseph's brethren fearing the wrath of Joseph after the death of Jacob, begged his forgiveness, and it was graciously given. Gen. 50:15-21.

Moses prayed that the people might be forgiven. Ex. 32:32, Num. 14:19. For forty days and forty nights. Please read Deut. 9:13-21.

The law provided that offering be made for sin, that they might be forgiven. Please read Lev. 4:1-35.

In the Psalms forgiveness is spoken of mostly by David. Psalm 25:18, 32:1-2, 85:2, 86:5, 103:3, and 130:4.

Solomon prayed at the dedication of the temple. Please read I Kings 8:22-30, 33-36. Read II Chron. 7:12-14 for God's answer.

To be forgiven we must repent. Acts 8:21-22, "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."

Jer. 36:3, "It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."

Confession is required, I John 1:8-10, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

Forgive the penitent. II Cor. 2:7, "So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow." Eph. 4:30-32, "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

If you would be forgiven you must forgive others. Matt. 6:12 and Luke 11:4, Luke 6:35-37, Col. 3:12-14. Matt. 6:14-15, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

So if we would have our sins forgiven, and be able to serve God acceptably and build a soul saving church, one pleasing unto our

Heavenly father we must be loving and forgiving with one another.

Gal. 5:14-15, "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."

My prayer is that we may be loving and forgiving toward one another, so that the Lord may bless us abundantly.

Brother William Carpenter

## KENYA KNOTES

### Despised And Rejected

Here we are in Africa, again! It is good to be back to see all the familiar faces. I have been very busy this time with the water projects and all.

It was during a water project that this happened. Bro. Frank had installed pipe and two taps from a spring to this village. The pipe developed a leak so Hosea and I went to see about it. We told them we would provide the material but they must provide the labor. We went back the next day and only one man was there to help! We began to dig. Many people walked by and looked at the muzungu working (they do not think we can) and kept going. The sun was very hot and I got a bad burn!

I went to weld the valve they had broken. While I was going I kind of made up a song about how sick I was of doing good for those who do not appreciate it!!! I was enjoying a sizable amount of self pity, when the Lord said "Boy, does this sound familiar!!!"

Conviction poured out on me! Just think of all that Jesus has done for me, and for years did I appreciate it? NO! Do I appreciate it like I should? Probably not.

So the next time you think you are doing more than your share and no one seems to care, remember what was done for you!!

Oh, by the way we did get the job done. While we were testing it, some men came and said some things to Hosea that were down right cruel!! (So bad he did not want to tell me! He said he was beginning to understand how Jesus must have felt at times here on



earth.) Then I went back a few days later and they had broken off the handle again!! We have told them they must pay for the next valve before we will fix it again. So, there may not be a happy ending yet...but the Lord's not finished there!! And He is not finished with me either. Praise the Lord!

Praising the Lord in Kenya,  
Brother Jeremiah L. Johnson

### "Please Don't Take My Wife"

Greetings to all in the name of Jesus! We have had so many exciting happenings in the past seven weeks that it is hard to know what to tell. This is an event of the last few days, so it is fresh on my mind.

Florence came the other day to help with some work of the mission. She had been here for quite a while when her brother-in-law, Peter, came. He was really upset. "Where is Hosea?" he asked. Florence did not know. After he left, Florence told us the story.

Peter's father-in-law is here to take his (Peter's) wife and children. Peter has not paid his dowry. Hosea must go to discuss the terms or whatever. Normally, the fathers of the couple would discuss this. But Peter and Hosea's father is very old and he lives far from here. Hosea is the older brother, so he must go.

All Florence would say is, "Some people are so funny. It is such a silly thing."

Jeremiah was horrified! "What are you saying, Florence!? He's about to have his wife taken! How can you be so nonchalant?" Florence just shook her head. An hour later, Florence's sister who lives with her, came.

Florence finally said, "I must go. Salome said Peter sent her to get me!" So Jeremiah took her to Peter's home.

He came home with good news. Peter's father-in-law went home. They could not find Hosea. I guess really his father-in-law had not said much. But he had written a letter to Peter a while ago saying that he was going to come and claim his own. The wife and children are seen as property of the girl's father until the husband pays his dowry. Peter has not paid, so every time his father-in-law

comes he is afraid this will be the time for him to lose his wife and three children.

We had asked Florence, "What does he want? Can Peter pay?" "Oh, no, he cannot afford it. The man will want a lot of money!"

Jeremiah said Peter is very happy. He was playing with his sixteen month old little girl. "What did you do to keep your wife?" Jeremiah asked Peter.

"I invited him in. I gave him soda!" Peter said. (Pop is the rage here.)

Oh, we are so glad we are not bound by these things! I cannot imagine living in fear that you will be separated. There is a sister who was here the last time we were here. She has a fifteen month old and a four year old. She went to visit her family while we were gone. Her father forbade her to go home until her husband has paid the dowry. She is still gone. He probably will not pay, either. It would be easier for him to go get another "wife". (He is not a church member.)

There are so many wrong customs here! Pray for these people. I could just cry for them at times! So often it seems they are so callused to these things. I guess that is the way they deal with it. There are so many needs here! Pray that we might be able to make a difference.

Your Sister in Africa,  
Sister Debra Johnson

## **BIBLE SCHOOL AT TORREON — 1998**

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17. Greetings of love from Quinter. It is rather late to be sending a report on Bible School, which was held in July, but that is the way it is this year.

On July 17, I picked up my crew, drove to McClave, Colorado where we spent the night with Bro. and Sis. Dave Snyder then with an early start we easily reached the Mission before dark. There were Kara and Jodi Swihart and myself from Quinter, a granddaughter, Carly Custer from Colorado Springs, and Rachel Snyder and

Tamara Burgess from McClave, Colorado. The volunteers were younger this year, but their desire to serve was full grown.

The young people truly enjoyed participating in the Sunday activities from riding the bus to pick up those that wanted to come to church, to listening to Bro. Trujillo translate Bro. David's message. Everything was new to them and they appreciated the opportunity of being a part of the mission even if it was for a short while.

As teachers, each of us was responsible for finding and preparing our own material. For some reason or other, this did not come easily for me this year and it was not until I was actually at the Mission that the Lord seemed to give me a subject. I had taken plenty of material with me so that was not a problem. However, each session was more difficult than I expected. Perhaps I did not pray or study enough those weeks before Bible School or perhaps you did not. Anyway, the girls were attentive and we enjoyed the lessons.

There is a vast difference between teaching Bible School now and teaching thirty-five years ago. At that time many of the children had never heard of God or Jesus. (Their knowledge was so limited that I remember being shocked when I realized they thought that arms and legs were hollow.) This year most of my students were very knowledgeable about the Bible and knew many of the stories well. They had a working knowledge of Salvation. Some of this had been learned from our Mission and some from other churches in the area.

The young sisters were a great help. They helped the teachers with lesson preparation, with crafts' preparation and as helpers, especially with the younger classes. They ran errands, helped with cleaning projects, picked up roadside ditches, helped with meal preparation; they were busy from morning to night. They especially enjoyed driving over to see the Hoo-Doos, unusual sandstone formations that had been formed by the wind.

I was excited with the attendance and the interest that was shown. After classes there was standing room only in the church for dismissal. Wonderful! I was so pleased that I am enclosing copies of the attendance record for your information.



## BIBLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

July 20-24, 1998 - South Route

Sis. Erin - Beginners	21	29	24	12	23
Sis. Arlene - Ages 6-7	19	22	26	12	18
Sis. Karen - Ages 8-9	21	26	22	17	24
Sis. Shirley - Girls 10-12	11	12	16	13	17
Bro. Paul - Boys 10-teen and Teen Girls	15	21	32	24	24
Bro. David - Adults	14	20	19	15	13
Helpers	15	15	15	15	15
Totals	116	145	154	108*	134

\*Not all routes ran Thursday evening as we had rain.

July 27-31, 1998 - North Route

Sis. Laura - Beginners	15	20	22	17	15
Sis. Jill - Ages 6-7	16	16	18	18	18
Sis. Janell - Ages 8-9	14	18	19	17	19
Sis. Arlene/Karen - Girls Ages 10-12	7	7	8	7	6
Bro. Dale - Boys Ages 10-12	5	5	6	7	6
Bro. Paul - Teens	26	27	25	21	17
Bro. David - Adults	26	27	25	21	17
Totals	117	136	139	128	124

The Quinter community was settled about 1885 to 1900 by people who worshipped God and whose parents and their parents before them had worshipped God. There has been a Dunkard Brethren Congregation in this community for seventy years. Our Bible School this year had probably about ten visiting children from the community and we thought that was good.

What about all the other communities in which we have Dunkard Brethren Congregations? Were your communities settled by people who worshipped God? Did your congregation have Bible School this year? How many visitors did you have?

One hundred years ago the people of the Torreon community probably had never heard of our God; most likely they—and all of their ancestors had followed the beliefs of the Indian way. Yet, for two weeks in a row more than a hundred visitors came each night to learn of God. Sunday after Sunday the people of this community come to hear God's Word. Month after month and year after year they have listened to the preaching of the Word.

Isaiah 55:11 tells us, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it." Do we actually believe God's word or do we pick and choose the verses that suit us? May each of us pray and support our missions, Torreon and Africa.

Sister Shirley Jamison

I spent a week of my summer helping with Bible School at the Torreon Mission. I helped Sis. Arlene Birt with the six to seven year olds. I really enjoyed my time at the Mission and want to thank the staff for the fun time they helped us have.

Sister Jodi Swihart

This summer I spent an enjoyable week at Torreon helping with Bible School. The class I helped with was the children up to five years old. Sis. Erin Jamison was the teacher. The average number of children was twenty each evening.

I want to thank the staff for what they do and the enjoyable time they helped us create. Thanks again and God bless.

Sister Kara Swihart

#### The Home Field Advantage

I know many of you probably recognize this title from Conference. When I was told to write an article for the Monitor, I had no idea what I was going to write about but it seemed the more I prayed about it the more God was telling me to write about The Home Field Advantage. The message at Conference opened my eyes but when I went down to the Mission to help with Bible School is when I really saw what an advantage we have in our own communities. I was visiting with a staff member and he brought up this subject and about how we do not realize what we have. At home we could easily

go out and witness to someone in need knowing that we had the prayers of our Church family which sometimes includes up to one hundred people. At the Mission they have to deal with everything from children that need extra love to drunks that abuse those precious children but yet they only have the other few staff members there with them. It was also said by one of the staff that even though you know God is there, it is not the same as a whole congregation. They all need special prayer from each of us individually as well as congregations. We need to take advantage of the support we have at home because soon we may not have the opportunity to and then on judgment day, the people we lived with all our lives will say, "She never told me and we worked together for thirty years!" We need to support the missions but we also have a mission field in the house next door. Do not lose the chance!

Matthew 28:19-20, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world.

Sister Rachel Snyder  
McClave, Colorado

## SERVING A LIVING SAVIOR

Romans 8:33-34, "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

One of the major reasons that the early Brethren, along with other Anabaptist groups, did not display the cross in their meeting houses or on the outside as well as not using various symbols and icons was because they fervently believed that they were worshipping a living Savior. We, as Dunkard Brethren, continue this practice in our meeting houses today.

A song writer says:

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today.

I know that He is living, whatever men may say.



I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer.

And just the time I need Him, He's always near.

The fact that we have a living Savior should lead us to service for His glory. As individuals we are called to serve God in various ways and positions. No matter what the calling, if we are faithful in our service, God will be pleased.

True service involves an attitude of worship. Modern religion would put the false gods of the various movements in the same category as true Christianity. The goal of a one world religion is no longer the objective of a small group of radicals but is the accepted agenda in most of the established Christian denominations and gatherings. They give lip service to a living Savior while denying the reality of the fact. These modern disciples of error would have us believe that it is wrong to judge those outside the true Christian Faith.

God's Holy Word has already condemned them. To hide their error they accuse us of worshipping a book. We were surprised to find out recently that some who claim to worship the true Christ also make this accusation. They put their church history and rituals above the written Word of God.

True worship can only be accomplished by a study of the Word of God. If we have a Bible full of errors, as indicated by many today, we have only the wisdom of man left. While the King James Version is only a translation, we do not believe it is full of errors or, in fact, contains any errors. It is here that we learn of our living Savior.

Serving a living Savior also involves accountability. The Apostle Paul asks the question, "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?" We become more and more persuaded that we must be very careful in judging who is in the Kingdom of God and who is outside the Kingdom.

While church tradition, along with the rules and regulations usually accompanying it, can be useful, this should not be the criteria for accepting or rejecting others as fellow Christians. We believe that within a gathered group there needs to be guidelines and order established. Even here we have to be careful that we do not put the traditions of men on the same level as the truths of the Word of God. The other extreme is the popular teaching of "unity

in diversity." What we must remember is that it is God that justifieth. Ultimately we must answer to Him for our actions.

Praise God, serving a living Savior also has many benefits. In Romans 8:32, we read, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? We can be assured that God will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory.

When sickness causes these bodies of clay to suffer God may see fit to heal them. If not, we know that He will supply the strength to meet the trial. When the problems of life seem to be more than we can deal with, God will be there to give us a solution. Even the death of a loved one does not escape the watchful eye of God.

Serving a living Savior is a source of joy. While the world finds a type of enjoyment in many forms of entertainment and desires, the people of God can find true joy in Christ. We have the joy of knowing that the living Christ maketh intercession for us and answers the false accusations against us. Our final joy will be when we receive our resurrected bodies to forever be with our Living Savior.

Brother James M. Hite  
816 E. Birch St.  
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

## THE JANITOR

"...I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Psalm 84:10

If you live in our part of the country you have probably driven past it. It is an old stone building located in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. Most of the people in this area used to be Brethren, but times have indeed changed.

But I must introduce myself. I am the janitor of Brightbill's Meetinghouse. I get no money for this job, but the pay I receive is more precious than gold. While I am here and the place is otherwise empty, I go about my work, singing and giving praise unto the Lord. Then when my work is done I will sit down and sing from the hymnal a song or two.

The building has been here a hundred and fifty years, and sometimes I imagine the great cloud of witnesses-those saints who have gone on before-singing along with me! It is a real blessing to know that your sins are forgiven by Jesus Christ our Lord. Those who can make that claim really have something to sing about!

There are just a few of us here at Brightbill's, so janitoring is not my only job. I guess I could be considered a jack-of-all-trades. But is it not a blessing to know that we do these things because we love the Lord and seek to do His will in everything?

I am glad that in this ever-changing world we have the Word of God, which never changes, and that we can preach Christ in you, the hope of Glory! We can only reach heaven through Jesus Christ. Nothing we have or nothing we can do can substitute for faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Well, I have a few more windowsills to dust, and I see that my son is soon done with the mowing, so I must be getting along. Come visit us at Brightbill's some time if you are in the area. We would love to have you worship with us.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

## UNEXPECTED KAPTALAMWA CHURCH VISIT

The seventh day of February 1999 was a wonderful Sunday for the Kaptalamwa Church members.

We had started our fellowship at 10:00 A.M. as usual and were singing our last hymn just before having an official opening prayer. Suddenly I looked through the window and saw our church van drive towards our congregation. I could not inform the rest of the congregation as they were busy chanting a spiritual hymn. They noticed the presence of visitors by themselves when they recognized the van being parked in front of the church entrance. We welcomed our unexpected visitors from Kapenguria. They were our missionaries. Brother Jeremiah Johnson, his wife Debra, their children Hosanna and Micaiah, Sister Nadine Marks, Sister Florence and Brother James.



Yes, it was a surprise, but we were blessed greatly, especially through the sermon which Brother Jeremiah delivered. A few who had failed to attend church service that day missed a lot, despite how good the reasons which they had. They ended up being with regret. "I wish I knew."

Brethren there is a lesson that I learned from this kind of church visit (without notification). "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh...but of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven...as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be...before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Zech. 14:1, Matt. 24:36-39)

Suppose these visitors were the Lord himself coming back for His church. Whom do you think would be rated to be taken? The ones found in the Church or the ones found not in the Church? Definitely the answer is obvious. The ones found already in the Church. This time not just a physical church but a spiritual one. Such are:

1. Those who are in Christ. I Thess. 4:16-17.
2. Those who belong to Christ. I Cor. 15:23.
3. Those who keep themselves holy. Rev. 20:4-6.
4. Those who do good. John 5:28-29.
5. Those that are worthy. Luke 21:36.
6. Those who are pure. I John 3:2-3, I Peter 1:22.
7. Spotless. Ephesians 5:27.
8. Those who live and walk in the spirit. Galatians 5:16-23.
9. Those who walk in the light of God's Word. Col. 2:6, I John 1:6-7.

If the Lord is to come now, unexpectedly, is He to find you ready to go with Him? May God help you and I to keep on watching, for we know neither the day nor the hour He cometh.

Brother Fredrick Ayooch  
Box 159  
Kapchetop, Kenya

## THE DEVIL'S SNARES

The dictionary gives the meaning of the word snare: a running noose of cord or wire for catching an animal or bird to entangle or entrap. It is nearly always fatal to the prey.

The snares of the devil have been mentioned many times in the Scriptures. II Tim. 2:26, "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil,..." Lam. 3:47, "Fear and a snare is come upon us, desolation and destruction." Isa. 24:17, "Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth." David said in Psalm 69:22, "Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap." There are many places between the lids of the Bible that contain warnings of the snares of Satan. Please, dear reader, go to a good Concordance and study what the Word of God says about Satan's snares.

I believe the Bible writers are speaking of all the evil lusts and desires common to the human race. These are the ones we follow to our own satisfaction—pride, greed, lustful desires, envy, hatred, jealousy, worldly amusements, foolishness, jesting, disobeying Godly parents, pleasing man in preference to God, to name of few. Worldly company and associations lure us away from God. Satan's imps are ever on our shoulders reminding us that we are out of style and missing out on the daily fun.

These snares are especially contagious among young people who have not experienced the results that follow when they are overtaken. Satan has many DO snares and also many DO NOT snares. For instance, do smoke, do drugs, do disobey parents, do flirt, do dress stylishly, do, do, do. But do not go to church, but do go to the movies and watch television instead, do not visit the sick, do not read the Bible, a novel or love story is more interesting.

The way to Heaven is a straight path that not many people are traveling because they follow the Satanic lures into the snare nets that Satan has deceitfully and cunningly set. In the end, will be the final struggle to try to disentangle ourselves from the addictions that so fasten themselves upon us that we will have a real struggle to free ourselves from, if we ever can.

A man of my acquaintance was buried recently, who had smoked cigarettes in early life and had become a victim of emphysema. This resulted in a several year nursing home stay, which was broken up many times by hospitalizations, because they thought he would smother to death.

Many old age pains, both physical and mental, have been caused by sins we have committed in early life. Overcoming all such things are possible through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Pray frequently. Pray with a dedicated heart, mind and soul to God for deliverance and He will rebuke Satan. Do not forget to fast. Denying one's food is a wonderful help in the process of losing our sin problems.

This is why the wise man Solomon said, "Remember now thy Creator, in the days of thy youth, that the evil day come not." He knew when people are young they are easily snared by the lusts of the flesh and life. These will grow upon them and eventually overcome them and their fellowship with God and bring on them evil rewards both in this life and the life to come. When we will want Him to say, "Enter thou into the joys of the Lord," we may find ourselves listening to the sentence "Depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you."

It is important that we know Christ now and follow His precepts if we want Him to acknowledge us at that great day before His Father and the Holy angels. If we are ashamed of Him now, or rebel against His Word, our eternal future just might not be the way we would like it to be, or expect it to be.

It is important that we seek Him while it is day and we have the opportunity, for the darkness is fast approaching and time is running out. We do not want to be like Esau who waited too long and in the end sought forgiveness with bitter tears, but did not find forgiveness. Heb. 13:17.

"Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." Rom. 11:11. So beware of the snares of Satan that allure, deceive, entangle and finally destroy those who become involved with them. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.



When we say "No" to the devil's snares we help to strengthen our Brethren, the young people and the weak in faith. Let us strive to be spiritual pillars — not broken reeds. May God bless and strengthen us in our efforts for Him that we keep our hedge strong that Satan cannot penetrate it. The stronger the wall the greater the protection.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder  
6159 Garrett Highway  
Oakland, MD 21550

### MEETING NOTICES

- April 2-3 - Second District Meeting, Plevna, Indiana
- April 2-4 - Fourth District Meeting, Pleasant Home, California
- April 4-11 - Revival Meeting, Dallas Center, Iowa
- April 9-10 - First District Meeting, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania
- April 10 - Third District Meeting, Dallas Center, Iowa
- April 11-18 - Revival Meeting, Bethel, Pennsylvania
- April 25-May 2 - Revival Meeting, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania
- June 5-9 - General Conference, Ceres, California

### LOVEFEAST NOTICES

- April 3 - Pleasant Home, California
- April 10 - Dallas Center, Iowa
- April 17 - Grandview, Missouri
- April 17 - West Fulton, Ohio
- April 25 - Bethel, Pennsylvania
- May 1 - McClave, Colorado
- May 2 - Waynesboro, Pennsylvania
- May 15 - Dayton, Virginia
- May 16 - Lititz, Pennsylvania
- May 23 - Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

**NEWS ITEMS****MINISTERIAL LIST CORRECTION**

The correct telephone number for Bro. James Eberly is 717-445-4515.

**THANK YOU**

I am writing to thank our friends and fellow-members of the Dunkard Brethren Brotherhood for the prayers that were offered for me and for the cards that I received after my accident. I am recovering fairly quickly for which we praise the Lord. We do not know why my life was spared but we do know that it is only by the grace of God that I am here. Thank you and may we each strive to share one another's burdens through prayer and may we each have more love one for the other.

Sister Shirley Jamison

**WEST FULTON, OHIO**

The date for our Spring Lovefeast has been changed from April 24 to April 17. The times of these services will be the same as previously announced. Please come and join us for this time of Spiritual service.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

**MCCLAVE, COLORADO**

The McClave Congregation is planning to hold Lovefeast services May 1, 1999, Lord Willing. We welcome you to come and share with us the joy and blessing of this service.

Sister Arlene Stamy, Cor.

**THANK YOU LETTER TO BRETHREN AND SISTERS**

I thank you all for the telephone calls, get-well cards, small gifts, I have received while I was in the hospital from January 19 to February 2, 1999. Also I thank you for your prayers that were sent to our Lord Jesus Christ in my name.

I was in for the removing of the right kidney, with a tumor, which was 95% cancer. They were able to get it all. I am doing well, now, at home.

We can all be thankful for the healing of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are also thankful for the wisdom of the physicians. Without His healing power, we are dust.

I ask the Lord Jesus Christ to richly bless you all. I am a poor little sinner who can not bless you the way He can and keep you in His Hands.

In Christian Love,  
Sister Lizetta Bittinger

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1999**

May 2 - Multiples Of The Love Of Jesus: 1,12 & 5000 - Luke 8:49-9:17.

1. Why did Jesus say to the parents of the maid whom he raised from the dead, "Tell no man what was done"?
2. Why did Jesus have the people sit down in groups of fifty?

May 9 - MOTHER'S DAY - I Kings 3:16-27.

1. Why did the woman who tried to claim the living child later tell the king to "divide it"?
2. Where did Solomon get his wisdom?

May 16 - Confessing Faith Is A Costly Faith - Luke 9:18-45.

1. What did Jesus mean when He said, if we follow Him we must deny ourselves and take up our cross daily?
2. In the beginning of this chapter, Jesus gave the twelve disciples power and authority over all devils. Why could the disciples not cast out the devil in verse 40?

May 23-Getting Fit For The Kingdom Means Traveling Light-Luke 9:46-10:16

1. How could someone who was not following Jesus cast out devils in Jesus' name?



2. What did Jesus mean, if we look back we are not fit for the kingdom?

May 30 - The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:17-42.

1. Why is the most important thing to rejoice about the fact that our names are written in Heaven?
2. Who is your neighbor?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1999**

May 2 - First Miracle At Cana - John 2:1-11.

1. What did Jesus mean, "Mine hour is not yet come"?
2. Explain how our life without Jesus is like an empty vessel, but after we receive Jesus our life is like a filled vessel giving out the best of wine.

May 9 - MOTHERS - Gen. 21:14-20, Ex. 2:1-10, I Kgs 3:23-28, Jn 19:15-27.

1. Contrast the two mothers of Moses. His natural mother and his adoptive mother.
2. Why did the mother of Jesus stand by His cross?

May 16 - Cheerfulness - Prov. 15:9-16, John 16:1-8, 32-33, Acts 27:21-36

1. How is it that what is in our heart shows on our countenance?
2. Why should we "be of good cheer"?

May 23 - Fear - Deut. 10:11-14, Ex. 12:13-14, Matt. 10:22-31, I Pet. 1:13-19.

1. Why should we fear God, but not fear man?
2. Explain the difference between these two kinds of fear.

May 30 - Reality - Gen. 3:1-24, Matt. 3:1-9, James 4:13-14.

1. What are "fruits meet for repentance"?
2. How can we discern what God considers the priorities of man's life while here on earth?

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# BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 5

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## WALK IN THE LIGHT

Walk in the light! so shalt thou know  
That fellowship of love,  
His spirit only can bestow,  
Who reigns in light above.

Walk in the light! and thou shalt find  
Thy heart made truly his,  
Who dwells in cloudless light enshrined,  
In whom no darkness is.

Walk in the light! and thou shalt own  
Thy darkness passed away,  
Because that Light hath on thee shone  
In which is perfect day.

Walk in the light! and e'en the tomb  
No fearful shade shall wear;  
Glory shall chase away its gloom,  
For Christ hath conquered there.

Walk in the light! thy path shall be  
Peaceful, serene and bright;  
For God, by grace, shall dwell in thee,  
And God himself is Light.

-Bernard Barton

## BLINDNESS

Blindness is an affliction that all wish to avoid. A person born blind or blinded when young can adapt to live a nearly normal life. With various aids and adaptations, they can live very productive lives. Those who are older when they become blind have more difficulties adjusting to their loss. Their blindness is a hardship and a burden.

Vision depends not only on eyes that are able to see but also on the presence of light. A perfect set of eyes in perfect blackness would be unable to function. Even a little light allows the eyes to make out shapes and figures as the eyes adjust to the darkness.

As unhandy and burdensome as physical blindness is, there is a blindness that is even worse. That is Spiritual blindness. Spiritual vision does not depend upon being able to see physically.

According to the Apostle Paul, Spiritual blindness comes from ignorance of God's Word and from the god of this world. The god of this world wishes to entrap all whom he can. He will try to gain them by keeping them in the dark. He will get men to believe that their activities, however vulgar, are all right. The deeds of darkness are the deeds of sin. Light is necessary for physical sight. Spiritual light is necessary for Spiritual sight. The light of God's gospel is needed to have Spiritual sight. The natural man is unable to understand Spiritual issues. To the natural man these things are foolishness. To the Spiritual man they are the essentials of Spiritual life.

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## THE BIBLE MONITOR

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Satan desires to keep men in Spiritual darkness so he can control them. He wants them to be in the dark concerning the gospel that Jesus brought to earth. To keep them from hearing and responding to the gospel, he keeps them from understanding it. He keeps them ignorant of the true content of the gospel. He tells them that the gospel is something other than what it is. He may also keep them from the gospel by attracting them to the habits and pleasures of this world. These things will keep them drugged, so they will not be able to understand and receive the message of salvation. Many become so busy with the normal busyness of life, that they do not take time to consider the more important things that concern their soul's destiny. With their minds drugged by the world's pleasures or their lives full of worldly activities, they are unable or unwilling to break the bands that Satan has forged for them.

People will do almost anything to preserve or restore their sight. They will spend money and time and suffer pain in the hope of improving their sight. Satan does not want people to gain their Spiritual sight. He wants to keep them Spiritually blind. If they show an interest in gaining their Spiritual sight, he will use every ploy possible to dissuade them from their intent. If he can do nothing else he will lead them into false religions. He will do all possible to keep them from finding the true light that comes from God.

The light of the gospel is so important to good Spiritual sight. Jesus is the light of the world for He has brought the needed light to this world. If individuals in the world will give heed to the light they can have Spiritual sight. Without this light they will be Spiritually blind.

The light is the total opposite of darkness. As white is the opposite of black so darkness is the opposite of light. The light of the gospel opens the hearts, minds and bodies of individuals to a clear view of their thoughts and intents. As a person hears or reads the Word of God, with the direction of the Holy Spirit, they begin to realize where they have come short of the standard and glory of the Lord. Their sins are pointed out to them. These sins are not pointed out simply to make them aware of them, but that they might be put away through repentance. The light does not expose a person's sinfulness and leave him in despair, but it also brings the



message of salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. Those exposed sins can be put away through the exercise of the plan of salvation.

God wants each individual to have Spiritual sight. He wants them to be able to see where they stand in His sight. He wants all to see so they can walk the Christian pathway as they travel through life. To be able to see the dangers that abound in this life is a necessary ability for a Christian. He must be able to distinguish between the light and the darkness on every hand. Since Satan at times appears as an angel of light, true Spiritual sight is necessary to distinguish between his counterfeit religion and true Spiritual life.

Are you blind? You need not be Spiritually blind. The gospel is light and life. It is available for you.

M.C.Cook

### **IF ... FOR MOTHERS**

who sometimes feel like their efforts in serving the Lord are insignificant

If I can view each day as a gift from God and face it with a song in  
my heart,

If I can see each problem that I face through each day as an opportunity,

If I can show my children that my delight is in the Lord and doing  
His will,

If they can see me pouring over the Word and kneeling before the  
Throne,

If I can teach them to see God in the beautiful world around them,  
from the robin's nest to the elegant wild flower blooming by  
the way,

If I can help them see that making peace is worth much self denial,

If I can teach them to have a soft heart but tough skin,

If I can teach them to love children and want to invest in their lives,

If I can help them to view the elderly with honor and dignity and  
give them a desire to serve them,

If I can help them to comprehend that everyone they meet and all others, too, are created by God and deserve our honor and love,

If I can instill within them a burning desire to be a builder, encourager, and a motivator to do good,

If I can light a fire within them that would give them a passion for the lost and a driving desire to see people come to the Lord,

If I can be a perfect example of honesty, integrity, and kindness,

If I can teach them to respect, honor and pray for their leaders,

If I can teach them to be sensitive to other's feelings but to not be easily hurt themselves,

If I can show them how to laugh at themselves and acknowledge mistakes,

If I can gently show them how to say, "I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?"

If I can, by example, show honor, reverence, and submission to their father,

If I can teach them that how they use their money is more important than how much money they make,

If I can demonstrate how to show forgiveness,

If I can teach them how to have clear consciences every night as they go to bed,

If I can keep them sensitive to God's will and way,

If I can show humility and acknowledge that all we are is because of what God and others have done for us,

If I can show them how to be compassionate and how to put a comforting arm around someone's shoulder,

If I can laugh with them as well as cry with them,

If I teach them that their whole purpose in life is to live for the Lord and further His kingdom,

Then I will have done something for the Lord that will last throughout all eternity and the world will be a better place because my

footsteps mark the sands of time.

Lord, help us to be faithful!!  
Sister Sally Meyers

## **KENYA KNOTES**

### **OBEYING GOD RATHER THAN MEN**

A few weeks ago we had a baby shower for James and Imelda's new baby, Frank. He was born on February 3. We did all the usual preparations: organize the baby gifts among the women, buy clothes and so forth. Then the big day arrived. There was an air of expectancy and excitement about the women as they climbed into the van. Jeremiah, our children, Nadine and I sat on the front bench seat of the van. I looked back, and it looked full to me. We still had another stop to make. Jeremiah had taken the back two rows of seats out and put in four benches, instead. At the last pick-up stop, five more women and a few more children climbed in. It took them quite a while to compact that time! There were twenty women back there, besides a half dozen children! Jeremiah drove very slowly and carefully over the hills and down the mountain to Chepareria.

James was very happy to see such a large crowd to celebrate his son's birth. We had the regular Saturday women's meeting first. We finished our character study of Hannah (from I Samuel), that we had started the week before. I lead in discussing the Godliness of Hannah and the impact and involvement she had in her son's life. I tried to stress the importance of training our children.

Then we had the welcome for Baby Frank. It was truly a time of celebration! I was sitting between Florence and Imelda and I got the privilege of "redressing the baby." Watching the women on either side of me and remembering the birth of this baby, which I was privileged to attend, I felt so full of joy that I thought I might burst. This was Imelda's first child and she felt the miracle of being able to give birth, that we all feel on that experience. For Florence, this was like a grandchild. James is like a son to her though he is her brother-in-law. It was a time of great joy!

Different ones gave testimony of the birth or anything pertaining to it, and gave advice to the new parents. I felt so full of joy and



yet I felt a heaviness too. Kenyan children need training, just as American ones do. This is a tremendous job, as we know already! It is impossible without the Lord's help and strength. I have seen in Kenya that very few children are trained properly. Ultimately, the child is in charge. I feel for the mother AND the child.

Often, though, I know they feel for Hosanna and Micaiah! "Just give him/her what they want," they say. It is hard to discipline our children the way God instructs us to, when we are with the people constantly. I suppose this is called peer pressure. It would be so easy to excuse the willful behavior in the presence of the natives.

Is the only reason we discipline our children because of what church people will think of our rebellious child? NO! God's Word commands us over and over to teach and discipline. "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." Prov. 13:24. "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." Prov. 19:18. So we strive to be an example in this area, even though those around us think ill of us. Pray for us in this area. Pray that the Kenyan children might be taught in God's Way.

Serving in Kenya,  
Sister Debra Johnson

### JUST TWO SHILLINGS

A widow sister of the church held a harambee to raise money to send her children to school. She and most of the other sisters prepared food to feed the people. It was like a big celebration. There was enough food to feed an army. The food was all prepared by two o'clock. The people ate as much as they could eat. Everybody was satisfied.

There was a meeting held after the meal. This was not a church function, but Hosea had a short devotion on supporting the widows in the church. Everybody listened attentively. Then it was time to collect all the money. It was done in a very showy way. Each gift was announced as it was given.

Many people gave hundreds and some gave thousands of shillings (sixty shillings equal a dollar). The greater the amount the more the praise. One of the poorest sisters from church, who was

much poorer than the one holding the harambee went up there and cheerfully gave her two shillings. It was all she had.

I am reminded of a happening in Mark 12:42-44. "And there was a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto his disciples, and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."

Are we willing to give our last penny to someone else? Do we put our wants before other peoples needs? Are we ashamed because we have "too little" to give? God would rather have a willing heart give a little than a proud heart give much.

Serving Him in Kenya,  
Sister Nadine Marks

### NO DEALS

Greetings of love from Kenya. Not too long ago we went to one of the churches. There were not very many people there. There were supposed to be sixteen or so baptized believers but only about four baptized and four visitors were there. James and I questioned them but we got several answers. I reported this to Hosea (the chairman) and he went to investigate. He found that the church there is not content with the amount of help they have been given. They told him that they need more help if they are going to stay in this church.

You see, I think they have been led to believe that the Lord is a businessman. They think that if you join the church that you will get certain things. The more "strict" a church means the more you have to "give up" and then the more you get!

After thinking about this, I realized that God does not make those kinds of deals. I think of people like the Apostle Paul. He asked God to remove his "thorn in the flesh". God told him that His (God's) strength was sufficient for him. Paul did not forsake God because of it, nor did he fault Him! I believe it is because Paul realized that he was the servant and God was the Master not the other way around.

We must trust the Lord for our salvation and our life. He has already done so much for us. Think of it; Who gave you life? Who sustains it? Who gave the gifts of creation and the world? All this should be enough to cause you to worship Him. Let alone the fact that God gave you His Son!! He has forgiven your sin! Hallelujah!

Now let me ask you, when do you praise Him? When do you say Praise the Lord? (Maybe you have not for awhile! You ought to try it.) Is it only when something good happens? When that prayer is answered the way you wanted? Is God any less great when he says "No"? When He tells you that His grace is sufficient for you? Are we any different than them, when we grumble at the disappointments and only praise at the gifts? Do not try to make deals with the Master. "Present your bodies a living sacrifice." The lamb does not bargain with the priest about what he will get out of the deal. He just gives himself!

Can't we do the same?

Your fellow servant,  
Brother Jeremiah Johnson

## OUR IDENTITY

"...those things which are most surely believed among us." Luke 1:1.

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;" Ephesians 2:20.

"...to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:" II Peter 1:1.

The world watches us daily. Many from other churches watch us. They want to see our direction and what we think is important. Our primary reason for existence should be to please God. After this we must edify one another and also live the gospel before the world.

Our denomination over the past several years has been experiencing an identity crisis. This often happens when most of the charter members of a group have passed away. Those truths,



which initially led to the establishment of the group, have not been preached as emphatically as before. The founding members, particularly the founding officials, are barely a memory, and their influence is waning. As a group, we know where we have been. Now the question remains, where are we going?

We are exhorted in no less than four books of the Bible to "continue in the faith." Before we can continue in the faith we must be established in the faith. I believe in these last days that the forces of evil are infiltrating the church. Unbelievers are posing as believers in order to cause division and strife in the ranks of the saints. I also believe that it will take all the steadfastness and loyalty we can muster to offset this evil.

Everyone has different ideas about what the church should be. Our opinion is meaningless unless we read and study the scriptures. God has a place and a work for each one of us to do. God's will for the church is that we all may be one, as the Father and Son are one.

Alexander Mack and his contemporary Brethren were able to look back and see the mistakes that the reformers made and use this to their advantage. We can look back 2000 years and see the mistakes made over the centuries, and apply this knowledge to our own situation. History has proven that mankind, as a rule, does not learn from history and is doomed to make the same mistakes over and over. We as the saints of God should know better. Our identity as the church should be based on a spiritual foundation and good works, prompted by a love for God and not with expectancy of reward. We should have no other motive for service than to worship God and to love one another.

Are we not called Brethren?

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
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## **THE NEED OF AN "EXTENSION CORD"**

Ephesians 3:16-19, "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the

# GENERAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM of the DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

to be held at the

Ceres Seventh Day Adventist Church, Ceres, California, June 5-9, 1999

Theme: Countdown to Eternity - Facing a New Millennium

## Preaching Program

Time	Speaker	Subject	Text
Sat. P.M.	Mark Cordrey	A vision for The Church	Phil. 1:6
Sat. P.M.	Jeremiah Johnson		
Sat. Eve.	James Meyers	The Draft, the Selective Service, and You	
Sun. A.M.	Sunday School for Children	Ready to Leave Egypt And How Shall They Hear? Romans 10	Exodus 12
Sun. A.M.	Milton Cook		
Sun. A.M.	Paul Stump	Tolerance Verses Discipline	
Sun. P.M.	Marlin Marks		
Sun. P.M.	Ronald Marks		
Sun. Eve.	Gordon Jamison	To the Young People	
Mon. A.M.	Bible Study/Adult Children	Justification by Faith	Rom. 4:1-25, 5:1-2
		God Cares for His Prophet	I Kings 17:1-24
Mon. A.M.	Rod Renicker		
Mon. P.M.	Len Wertz	Is The Separated Life Outdated	
Mon. P.M.			
Mon. Eve.	William Carpenter	The Lord is Not Slack'	II Pet. 3:1-15(9)
Mon. Eve.	Hayes Reed	The Triumphant Cry From the Cross	John 19:25-30
Tues. A.M.	Bible Study/Adult Children	Justification by Works	James 2:1-26
		God's Word is True	II Kings 6:24-7:16
Tues. A.M.	Paul Skiles		
Tues. P.M.	Decorum Comm.	Missionary Program	
	Philip Franklin	Sharing the Gospel in Your Local Community	
Tues. Eve.	Fred Pfifer	Missionary Sermon: The Stewardship of Information	II Tim. 2:1-2

inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God."

Several months ago we purchased a new word processor after experiencing difficulty with the one we were using. To our dismay we recently had problems with the new word processor. Two trips to the repair shop brought complete frustration when the problem would not repeat itself in the shop and thus could not be diagnosed. It was finally suggested that we try using an extension cord. The plug to the equipment is quite heavy and it was thought that plugging it in directly could be causing the plug to work loose just enough to lose good contact. We see a spiritual lesson in this.

Human nature often displays a desire to do things on our own without any aid. The heavy plug reminds us of those who try to live a life acceptable to God by their own might. If we are completely honest we must all confess that we have the heavy weight of temptation along with a carnal nature that desires to have prominence. If we depend upon our own strength we will probably soon have the problem of having a "bad connection" in our relationship to God the Father, who is the "he" that is mentioned in our opening verses. To avoid this we must be willing to be "strengthened with might by his Spirit."

After it appeared that the problem indeed was in the connection rather than the equipment we had an electrician check the outlet for any problems. He found that the contacts in the receptacle were loose and thus replaced the unit. The Bible makes it clear that we can only come to the Father through the Son. Unless the Lord Jesus Christ dwells in our heart by faith we not only have a "bad connection" but we actually have no connection at all! It is like plugging into a receptacle when the electrical wires have no connection to a main source. The modern thinking that God the Father will accept any of the various religious figures as a way to Him is without merit. The Holy Spirit is the one who brings conviction to the hearts of those who need to be saved. Using an "extension cord" to help alleviate a problem is useless if the cord itself is faulty. The various methods popular today to lead individuals to



Christ is like using a faulty extension cord. We believe God uses the preaching of His Holy Word to bring conviction to hearts heavy with sin. Even good preaching is only effective if the Holy Spirit does His work in the heart of an individual.

We are convinced that many of our efforts to reach the lost are hindered because we are not "rooted and grounded in love." While our knowledge of electricity is sadly lacking, we know enough to know that an electric outlet must be grounded to work properly. We know that when the Apostle Paul wrote this and even when the King James translators completed their work electricity was unknown. But God knew about electricity and how it would work! First of all we must be rooted and grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ. If this is a fact then we will be rooted and grounded in God's Holy Word. Is it possible to be rooted and grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ and even in God's Holy Word and still not be rooted and grounded in love? True love does not say that error and lack of obedience does not matter. Discipline in the church is a difficult subject and we certainly do not have all the answers. We are convinced that when discipline is administered it must be done in an attitude of love. We must also be careful that love is not hindered by differing understanding on various aspects of Holy Scripture.

Praise God, when we have the right and a good connection we can "know the love of Christ." It should cause us to rejoice to realize that God the Son loves **me**. We can also "be filled with all the fulness of God."

What a blessing it is to know that we are a son or daughter of God. Have you used the "extension cord" provided? Have you responded to the call of the Holy Spirit to allow the blood of Christ to cleanse you from sin which is symbolized in water baptism?

Brother James M. Hite  
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## THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE CHRISTIAN

Brother William Heisey

We would like for us to open our Bibles to the 3rd chapter of

John. We thought that we would speak on the subject, "The Characteristics of True Christianity." Nicodemus asked what he must do to be saved. Jesus told him that except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus did not understand when Jesus told him that he must be born again, because he took it naturally. He said it was virtually impossible to be born again, but Jesus told him that he must be born of the water and the Spirit. Nicodemus then realized that he would need to be baptized and have his sins washed away. To have a renewed life, he needed the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. To be a child of God, there must first be a change take place. This is the rebirth period.

Now, we come to the growth period. We realize any parent, who has a child is concerned that he is growing properly. They will make every effort to see the child grow and develop. I believe that is what God wants us to do. He wants us to be a mature child of God.

Eph. 4:14-15, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." The Apostle Paul realized that importance of growing up in His stature. The growth period consists of each day of our life here on earth. We are to continually grow and gain strength to overcome the power of Satan as we go through life.

I Peter 2:1-3, "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." We know that babes have the appetite for milk. We as babes in Christ should have the appetite to grow in knowledge of Almighty God. We should have the desire to meet together and study God's Word to help us grow in that knowledge.

II Peter 3:18, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,..." We should grow and develop. We should not be on a standstill of growth, but continue to grow and be strengthened in the Word.

In our growing we also have a change of life. We have a new dress and new desires. We no longer act like the world. We no longer do as the world does, but we change our activities and our ways of life. We desire to please God and let Him choose our direction in life. We should adorn ourselves in modest apparel, not adorning our bodies after the worldly fashions. Paul had reference to the women, but we, as men also, have that tendency to dress like the world and act like the world. If we are growing in the grace and knowledge of God, we desire to pattern our lives after Christ instead of after the world.

I John 2:15-16, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Certainly we can see that if we love the world the scripture tells us the love of the Father is not in us. "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." So henceforth if we are going to be a child of God, if we are new born babes in the kingdom of God and if we expect to be a Bride for Christ when He comes again, we must separate ourselves from the world.

True Christianity will lead to a radiant life, that will radiate out to all with whom we come in contact.

Matt. 7:24-25, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." We must hear and carry out what we hear. We must be doers of the Word. We must live these teachings in our everyday life. When Satan hurls his darts at us, I believe we can compare this to the storms of life. We need to overcome the power of Satan's temptations. Instead of siding in with Satan and going along with the world, we are going to separate ourselves from the world. We are going to stand up and tell Satan, "No," that is not for me. The characteristics of Christianity are also going to cause us to desire a closer fellowship with God.

Luke 24:32, "And they said one to another Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" When Christ appeared unto them,



they were talking amongst themselves about the things that had come to pass. When Christ explained the Scriptures to them, their hearts burned within them. They were set on fire for the Lord. It brought joy and gladness to their hearts. This then would lead us to a spiritual education.

John 8:31-32, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." I believe if we have that desire to study God's Word and study the scriptures and be led by the Spirit, He is going to make known to us the things that we need to do in order to gain that eternal life. "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." This is going to cause us to live lives pleasing to almighty God and our Heavenly Father. When Christ comes He is going to call us home to be with Him.

Then too, we will desire to be of service to others as well. I Tim. 6:18-19, "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." Certainly each of us is laboring for that eternal life. We are to be "rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate." We are to lay up in store for ourselves a good foundation, which is eternal salvation.

I Tim. 6:12, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." Paul encouraged Timothy to press on and continue in the good walk of life that he might be a witness before many.

Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." If we are going to be true Christians and true followers of Almighty God, then we must try to please God and we read that without faith it is impossible.

I John 5:4, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." If we are going to be overcomers and be able to overcome the world, then we have to have faith and not allow Satan to lead

us. We need to stand against Satan. We have to be able to say, "No," and be able to stand up for what we know to be right.

Submitted by Sister Maxine Surbey

## READY OR NOT, Y2K

As you prepare or do not prepare for possible changes next year, here are some thoughts and scriptures I ask you to consider.

Matt. 24:3-5, "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

The disciples ask three questions. The first is not answered here but in Luke 21:20-24. It is the second and third questions, "What is the sign of thy coming" and "the sign of the end of the world" that Christ will answer here. There is also a warning. People are going to try to deceive you. This is the most important message. Do not be deceived. Read your Bible. Test my words. Maybe I have been deceived. Read the newspaper. Test the words. Pray. When will this happen? Now. Do not be deceived.

Matt. 24:6-8, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

These wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes will be of the magnitude to make one think it is the end of the world. Christ is not referring to your average disturbance. By telling us "but the end is not yet" he indicates that they will be of such magnitude that we will think it is the end. If Y2K problems are in scripture, I see them in this spot. Y2K has the "potential" to cause wars, famines and pestilence of this magnitude. If these things happen it is not "the end," but "the beginning of sorrows."

Matt. 24:9-14, "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted,

and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come."

When comparing this passage with Luke and Mark we find that this persecution of believers follows a form of civil order because we are given a chance to speak before execution. Because of the great disturbances people will not be patient or civil with each other. False prophets will deceive many people and believers will be blamed for all the world's troubles. Believers who endure and do not give up their faith will be saved, spiritually. This will be a great time of spreading the Word to all nations. People will be hungry for answers to their distress. They will choose the lies of the false prophets or the truth of God's Word.

Matt. 24:15-20, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the house-top not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:"

This event is one of the great signs during the end times. If you do not recognize the previous events, this one should be unmistakable. If it is the first one you see, it will be too late to prepare for it. The holy place is either in the temple or tabernacle of the Jews to be set up in Jerusalem. It can be set up very quickly. The person standing there is the antichrist. The abomination is that he declares himself to be God and ruler of the earth. The desolation refers to the altar of sacrifice that is made desolate by stopping the sacrifice to and worship of God. Those in Judea are instructed to run. I do not know if others should flee also, maybe they should at least hide. It may be that those who are watching are storing up



and preparing for those caught off guard and need to flee. This is only a guess on my part. Why are we to flee when this happens? Because of what happens next.

Matt. 24:21-26, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not."

Great tribulation. The world has suffered great wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes. The gospel is preached to all nations while the believers are being brought to the authorities for execution. Now antichrist declares himself to be God and promises peace and safety to all who will follow him but those followers of Jesus Christ do not even deserve trial and must be done away with now because they do not worship me. This will be similar to the time of Hitler. People will believe it is the right thing to do. A certain amount of time is given by God for antichrist to rule but this time is cut short for the sake of the believers. The false prophets at this time will show great signs and wonders to deceive the people of the world and to bring believers out of hiding for extermination. Do not be deceived. Christ will now describe the sign of His coming for which we are to watch.

Matt. 24:27-28, "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together."

This is the answer to the disciples second question, "What is the sign of thy coming?" It is a great and unmistakable light. But it is not next in order of events as we shall see. The carcase and the eagle speak of the slaying of antichrist's followers at Christ's coming.

Matt. 24:29, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:"

We see that great darkness follows great tribulation. I believe it is this great darkness that stops the great tribulation. It shakes the powers of the heavens which I interpret to be antichrist and his followers. This great darkness is the answer to the disciples third question, "What is the sign of the end of the world?"

Matt. 24:30-31, "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

After great darkness is great light. After the sign of the end of the world is the sign of Christ's coming. Christ comes with His angels to gather his believers; after great disturbance; after great persecution; after great tribulation, after the sign of the end of the world, and after the sign of his coming. Those who are watching will see all these things take place and will know what season it is. They will not be deceived. They will be prepared physically and most important, spiritually.

I understand that many people may disagree with my views on these scriptures. If I am wrong and the church is raptured before any tribulation I will be joyously surprised. If you are wrong and the church passes through great tribulation you will be unpleasantly unprepared and maybe deceived. As a good student of prophecy, I do reserve the right to be corrected.

Y2K may bring changes to our way of life. It may be the beginning of the fulfillment of Biblical end time prophecy: or it may be only the turn of a calendar page. Should we prepare for disruption of the supply systems? I believe it is prudent to do so in moderation. But more important are spiritual preparations. Already people are asking questions about Y2K, the Bible and God. We may not know much about Y2K, but we do know about God and His Word. Be ready to share it.

If Y2K changes nothing, are you ready to die anyway? Are you keeping the commandments of Jesus Christ? Are you ready for what Y2K may lead to? Are you ready for persecution? Are you watching? Do you know what to look for? Matthew 24 gives us many things to look for. Here are some additional scriptures to help answer these questions.

Rom. 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Rom. 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Acts 22:16, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Rev. 1:3, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."

Let us partake of all the blessings God has in store for us.

God's Peace  
Brother Tim Scofield  
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## **JUST STAY BY ME AND YOU'LL BE OKAY**

We walked out of Wal-Mart the other day, and after a slight hesitation to determine that the oncoming car would stop for us, I stepped out to continue to the parking lot. When I glanced down to make sure my six year old daughter was staying close, I found her still standing on the sidewalk, uncertain about stepping out in front of that car, yet knowing she was expected to stay beside me. She hesitated until I told her to come on. Then I said, "Just stay by me and you'll be okay."

Struck by my own words, I realized that as I walk through this life by the side of my Heavenly Father I often hesitate at the sight of the oncoming car. As my Father walks on ahead, leading me in safety to the place He wants me to be, I shrink back in fear of the



dangers looming around me. It's much more comfortable staying on the sidewalk. Even though I long to go with my Father and I deeply desire His will for my life, I do not like the walk when it requires me to step out from my safety zone and trust Him to get me through.

Sometimes I even wonder if He has checked carefully enough before heading out — does not He see that car?! And what about that patch of ice over there? When the path my Father is taking looks like the wrong one, I hesitate. Maybe it would be better to wait a little, or go out the other door, or take the shortcut over there. Surely there is another way to get where we are going; a way that does not require quite so much giving in on my part, quite so much walking in front of oncoming cars, quite so much blind faith.

"Just stay by me and you'll be okay." I know it's true. Nowhere else am I as safe as right beside my Father. He wants me there, walking close, holding His hand, trusting Him to know the way He has planned for me. That way has not always been comfortable, fun, or easy, but I have never doubted His love as He bids me stay by Him rather than pushing me out in the street to walk alone. When everything in me is pulling back in fear of the unknown path ahead, when I would rather find an easier way, or just stand on the sidewalk a little longer, I can only continue to stay by Him, for that really is the only way I will be okay.

Sister Arlene Stamy  
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## OBITUARY

### RICHARD WERTZ

Bro. Richard John Wertz, beloved father, grandfather, great and great-great grandfather passed from this life into eternal life with the Father in Heaven, Thursday afternoon, October 8, 1998, at the Bent County Nursing Home in Las Animas, Colorado. He had been a resident in the assisted living home and more recently in the constant care area. He was 90 years old.

Richard was born on August 3, 1908, in Friend, Kansas. He moved to McClave with his family when he was ten years old. The family traveled by train to McClave where Richard was raised on a farm at Cloverleaf. He eventually farmed within a mile from the Wertz home place.

His parents were Joseph and Rhoda Wertz, who preceded him in death.

He was married to Pearl Root at the age of nineteen. She also preceded him in death on January 3, 1976 at age 63.

Richard and Pearl have four children: Etta Clayton and Ivon Wertz of McClave, Colorado, Wanda Lutz of Salina, Kansas and Len Wertz of Quinter, Kansas.

Also preceding him in death were his brother Emery and sisters Ethel and Rozella. Two living sisters are Etta Lefholz and Minnie Haldeman.

Grandchildren are Loretta Johnson, Cheryl Baldwin, Vickie Burgess, Valerie Noecker, Steven, Stanley and Brent Wertz, Rhonda Snyder, Rick and Dan Sharp, Janet, Russell, Joni and Jean Lutz, Brad and Todd Wertz.

Richard was a deacon in the McClave Dunkard Brethren Church. He was very active in church and family activities and felt he had little time for other community involvement. He graduated from the eighth grade and went on to become a successful farmer and rancher. Many of the new household conveniences were first found in the Wertz home and on the farm.

A host of grandchildren and great grandchildren will remember sitting on Grandpa's lap and playing with the pocket watch he had tucked away in his over-all bib pocket. He loved the holidays and would sit quietly and enjoy the activities with the family.

His family and friends will miss his wit, his wisdom and his stability.

Family fellowship was held at the Peacock Chapel in Lamar, Colorado. This service was followed by interment at the McClave cemetery next to his beloved wife.

A search through Richard's Bible brought many insights as to his thoughts and meditations. On the front page was written, "God

will lead you into all truth and righteousness" and "The Holy Ghost shall teach you all things."

The warm smile and loving heart are gone only for us. These will now grace Heaven as he praises before the Father. His voice that could be heard above the tractor for a quarter of a mile away from home will now echo the thanksgiving of being transformed from mortality into immortality with the Lord.

#### ALVA H. BROADWATER

Bro. Alva H. Broadwater, 81, of Broadwater Cemetery Road, Swanton, Maryland died, Tuesday, October 27, 1998, at the Goodwill Mennonite Nursing Home, Grantsville, Maryland where he had been a resident.

Born November 12, 1916, at Savage River, he was the son of the late Jonas and Edith Broadwater. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Ethel (Rounds) Broadwater; one brother, and three sisters.

Mr. Broadwater was retired from the B&O Railroad, and was a farmer. He was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church, Broadwater Chapel, Savage River Road.

He is survived by his wife, Olive (Mayhew) Miller Broadwater; one stepson, Donald Miller and wife, Becky, Keyser, West Virginia; four stepdaughters, Delores Custer and husband, Paul, Barton, Maryland, Marion Hanlin, Westernport, Maryland, Darla Walters and husband, Michael, Baltimore, Maryland, Sharon Wilhelm, Avilton, Maryland; two sisters, Sadie Wilt, Loch Lynn, Maryland, and Lavada Bittinger, Rawlings, Maryland; fifteen step grandchildren, and seventeen step great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Boal Funeral Home, Westernport, Maryland on October 29, 1998, by Elder Virgil Leatherman and Elder Gene Kauffman. Interment was in the Restlawn Memorial Gardens, LaVale, Maryland.

#### MAMIE H. BROADWATER

Sis. Mamie H. Broadwater, 94, of the Frostburg Village Nursing Home, formerly of Spring Lick Road, Swanton, Maryland, died Saturday, October 24, 1998, at Sacred Heart Hospital, Cumberland, Maryland.



Born July 4, 1904, at Bond, Maryland she was the daughter of the late Jonas and Edith Broadwater.

Sis. Broadwater was a homemaker and a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church, Broadwater Chapel, Savage River Road.

Surviving are her husband, Ellsworth Broadwater, Frostburg Village Nursing Home; one brother, Alva Broadwater, Goodwill Mennonite Nursing Home; two sisters, Sadie Wilt, Loch Lynn, Maryland, and Lavada Bittinger, Rawlings, Maryland.

Services were conducted at Boal Funeral Home, Westernport, Maryland by Elder Virgil Leatherman and Elder Gene Kauffman. Interment was in the Rest Lawn Memorial Gardens, LaVale, Maryland.

### ELLSWORTHABROADWATER

Ellsworth A. Broadwater, 83, of the Frostburg Village Nursing Home, formerly of Spring Lick Road, Swanton, Maryland, died January 22, 1999, at Sacred Heart Hospital, Cumberland, Maryland.

Born February 6, 1915, at Grantsville, he was a son of the late Nelson E. and Ada (Chaney) Broadwater. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Mamie H. Broadwater on October 24, 1998.

Ellsworth was a farmer and retired from Wood Products, Oakland, Maryland. He attended the Dunkard Brethren Church, Broadwater Chapel, Savage River Road.

He is survived by several nieces and nephews. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family.

Funeral services were conducted on January 25, 1999, by Elder Ray Stuber and Elder Merle Sweitzer. Interment was in the Rest Lawn Memorial Gardens, LaVale, Maryland.

### MEETING NOTICES

April 2-3 - Second District Meeting, Plevna, Indiana

April 2-4 - Fourth District Meeting, Pleasnat Home, California

April 4-11 - Revival Meeting, Dallas Center, Iowa

April 9-10 - First District Meeting, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

April 10 - Third District Meeting, Dallas Center, Iowa

April 11-18 - Revival Meeting, Bethel, Pennsylvania  
April 25-May 2 - Revival Meeting, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania  
June 5-9 - General Conference, Ceres, California

### LOVEFEAST NOTICES

April 3 - Pleasant Home, California  
April 10 - Dallas Center, Iowa  
April 17 - Grandview, Missouri  
April 17 - West Fulton, Ohio  
April 25 - Bethel, Pennsylvania  
May 1 - McClave, Colorado  
May 2 - Waynesboro, Pennsylvania  
May 15 - Dayton, Virginia  
May 16 - Lititz, Pennsylvania  
May 23 - Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

### NEWS ITEMS

#### 1999 GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Lord willing, the Fourth District of the Brotherhood plans to host General Conference, June 5 through 9, 1999, at Modesto, California.

Conference attendees arriving prior to Saturday afternoon (June 5) should go to the Pleasant Home Church for registration and lodging information. When making reservations please tell the Lodging Committee when and where you are arriving. Please let them know if you need transportation from your arrival point.

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Avenue, Modesto, California. Directions: Attendees arriving on Highway 99 north or south take the Briggsmore exit. Follow Briggsmore east (approximately 6 miles) to Claus. Turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Ave, turn left on Sharon. Church is at the corner of Claus and Sharon.

Attendees arriving on State 132 from San Francisco, turn left onto Carpenter. Follow Carpenter to Briggsmore and follow above

directions.

Attendees arriving after 2:00 P.M. on June 5 should go to the Conference facility: Ceres Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 1633 N. Central Avenue, Ceres, California 95307.

Directions: Attendees arriving on Highway 99 north or south take the Hatch Road exit. Go east on Hatch approximately one mile to Central. Go right on Central. Facilities on the right.

#### ARE YOUR RESERVATIONS IN?

If not contact:

Bro. Dave Reece  
1341 Bennett Rd.  
Modesto, CA 95358  
209-529-2741

Bro. Rudy Manuel  
4025 Woodland Ave.  
Modesto, CA. 95358  
209-577-4044

We trust your stay in California will be enjoyable and uplifting.

On behalf of the Committee of Arrangements.

Brother Dave Reece

#### MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGES

The address of Brother Paul Nell has been changed to: 7298 Woodland Drive, Spring Grove, Pennsylvania 17362-8616. The telephone number to remain the same.

The address of Brother Galen Litfin is 1314 East 7th Street, Newberg, Oregon 97132. His telephone number is 503-538-2668.

#### E-MAIL ADDRESS

The e-mail address of the Dunkard Brethren African Mission is: AfricaDBC@aol.com. Your Brothers and Sisters in Africa appreciate your correspondence, prayers and support.

Brother Mark Andrews

#### THANKYOU

Greetings in the name of our Lord,

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up;..." James 5:14-15.

We would like to thank our brothers and sisters in Christ for



their prayers, cards and gifts while Issachar was in the hospital. Issachar is doing just fine now. We certainly know there is power in prayer. We have learned twice in the past few months the wonderful healing power of prayer. We know that the hand of God touched little Issachar and healed him. That same loving hand was upon our two older boys and Kendra Miller in Pennsylvania last November.

When we took Issachar to the hospital, he was diagnosed as having thick blood. My brother also had thick blood at birth. This can be hereditary. Issachar was two days old when admitted to the hospital. Tests were run. The doctor told us there was damage to his organs. They put him on an IV giving him water to thin his blood. However, the damage was done. The prayer chain began. It means so much to know your brothers and sisters in Christ from California to Pennsylvania are lifting you up before the throne.

We were transferred from Lamar hospital to Colorado Springs. When we arrived Friday night they began tests to determine how much damage there was. Saturday morning we were told his kidneys were working normally. For the next week, the multitude of tests taken proved that our loving Lord had completely healed our little Issachar.

With tears of joy we praise our God. At the hospital no treatment was ever given, other than the water to thin his blood. The treatment that healed was the powerful prayers of the saints.

It seems that we too often wait until there is no hope through the ways of this world, before we get on our knees and come before our all powerful Lord and Creator. When it is Him to whom we should go first.

Issachar is growing fast. At two months he weighs nine pounds and four ounces. He has beautiful blue eyes like his daddy and chubby cheeks like his mommy. He brings such joy and happiness to our home. With all our heart we thank our Lord for His loving kindness. We thank the heavenly angels for keeping watch over Issachar. We thank our living brothers and sisters in Christ for their prayers.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his ben-

efits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies;" Psalm 103:1-4.

Love in Christ Jesus,  
Sister Terry Scofield

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Several years ago I was involved in gathering Bibles for many nations in Africa. It happened without much effort on our part, but the need was great, and God's grace was sufficient to meet the need.

A few weeks back we were contacted regarding the need for Bibles in prisons all across America. We have decided to answer the call. We trust with the help of the Church the Lord will be glorified in it.

Clean, new or used, King James Bibles, giant print if possible, are needed for prisoners in jails all over this country. If you have Bibles you would like to donate, please contact:

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

Thank you and may God bless you.

### NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

Sis. Maxine Surbey has written and illustrated a Christian novel for young adults. *Truly His* is available from Sister Maxine Surbey, 7440 Reisert Drive, West Milton, OH 45383. The cost is \$ 8.00 per copy.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1999

June 6 - Prayer, Persistence, And Power - Luke 11:1-18.

1. How long should we continue asking God for something which He has not granted to us?
2. Why did the people accuse Jesus of casting out devils using the power of the devil?

June 13 - A Woeful Generation - Luke 11:29-54.

1. Why do people seek a sign from God?
2. What is the single eye focused upon?

June 20 - FATHER'S DAY - Genesis 18:16-33.

1. For what reason will God the Father destroy the children He has created?
2. Why was Abraham so determined and concerned regarding the city of Sodom?

June 27 - Bad Leaven And A Rich Fool - Luke 12:1-21.

1. What was "The leaven of the Pharisees"?
2. According to Jesus, of what does a man's life consist?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1999**

June 6 - The Good Seed - Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43.

1. Why could the tares NOT be identified sooner?
2. Who is responsible for dealing with the tares?

June 13 - Our Understanding - I Cor. 2:1-16.

1. In what should our faith stand?
2. How can we "know the things that are freely given to us of God"?

June 20 - FATHERS - Gen. 37:1-4, Job 1:1-5, Mark 5:21-23, 35-43

1. What is your response to the statement, "Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than all his children"?
2. How can Fathers today apply what Jesus said to Jairus, "Be not afraid, only believe."?

June 27 - Temperance - Luke 1:13-17, Rom 14:14-20, James 3:9-13.

1. Why was John the Baptist not allowed to drink wine, nor strong drink?
2. Explain how, in some cases, temperance actually includes abstinence.



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# BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## SWEETLY RESTING

In the rifted Rock I'm resting;  
Safely sheltered I abide;  
There no foes or storms molest me,  
While within the cleft I hide.

Long persued by sin and Satan,  
Weary sad, I longed for rest;  
Then I found this heav'nly shelter,  
Opened in my Savior's breast.

Peace, which passeth understanding,  
Joy the world can never give,  
Now in Jesus I am finding;  
In his smiles of love I live.

In the rifted Rock I'll hide me  
Till the storms of life are past,  
All secure in this blest refuge,  
Heeding not the fearest blast.

-Mrs. Mary D. Jones



## PETER AND US

In Matthew 16, Jesus addressed Peter twice. He first said, "Blessed are thou Simon Barjona". A few verses later He says, "Get thee behind me, Satan". How could He commend him so warmly the one time then in a few minutes condemn him so roundly?

As we follow the career of Simon Peter, we see him impetuously charging ahead. He would speak up when others were silent. He would promise faithfulness when others said nothing. He would act while others stood by. He accomplished some good but often could not live up to his boasts.

In Matthew's record, we find Peter acknowledging who Jesus was. When Jesus asked who the people thought He was, there were a variety of answers. The people knew He had some connection with God, but they were not quite sure what that connection was. When Jesus asked the more personal question of whom they individually thought He was, Peter without hesitation stated that He was Christ, the Son of the living God. Peter understood that He was the Messiah, the Anointed One of God. He had seen His miracles. He had heard Him speak. This was not an ordinary man. He was more than an orator. He was more than a religious man. He was more than a person interested in healing diseases. Peter knew that God had promised that He would send His Messiah to them at some time. He recognized that Jesus was the Messiah. This great confession, which is the basis of any man's willing ac-

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## THE BIBLE MONITOR

## JUNE 1999

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ceptance of Jesus as Lord and Saviour, was warmly commended by Jesus.

Because Peter was willing to listen to the Spirit of God, Jesus spoke of him as a building stone that would be part of the Church of God. Jesus was the great Rock foundation of the Church. Peter was a small stone in that building. Peter was given responsibility as a keeper of the keys. He was authorized to proclaim the Messiahship of Jesus so those imprisoned by sin and Satan could be loosed from their bondage. His sharing of the Gospel would unlock the shackles and prison doors that made people the prisoners of Satan.

Jesus began to share with His disciples the necessity of His death on the cross as the Sacrificial Lamb of God. He would be the unblemished Lamb offered at Passover. His prophecy ran so counter to their expectation of their Messiah. They had hoped their Messiah would come with great power to deliver them from the Roman bondage. They were looking for political and military freedom. Instead He offered Spiritual freedom that would be wrought through His suffering and death. Peter could not contain himself following this revelation from Jesus. He quite earnestly contradicted Jesus.

Jesus rebuked Peter very sharply. He called him Satan. He was saying that Peter was doing the work of Satan in making it harder for Him to face the task before Him. He would shrink from the suffering and sin-bearing in the Garden of Gethsamane. The cross and all that it meant loomed before Him, Peter was only making it worse as he did not understand the necessity of the sacrifice of Jesus.

Fickle Peter was commended and condemned by Jesus within a short period of time. He was full of Spiritual understanding one moment, but was dull a few moments later. Perhaps the reason Peter is so interesting to us is that he reminds us of ourselves. How many times have we made boastful promises of faithfulness, only to fail miserably? How many times have we thought that we really understood the Spiritual depths of Christianity, only to realize how little we really understood when challenged by those around us?

Lest, we feel completely hopeless in our service for Him, we

must remember that this incident in Peter's life happened before the day of Pentecost. We find a far different man after Pentecost. He was one to go ahead and take a stand, but he did it in the power of the Holy Spirit. He was one of the leading Apostles, as he ministered in Jerusalem and beyond. He, like us, was not perfect even then. Paul rebuked him once for his partiality. This is the Peter who wrote, "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." 1 Pet. 4:16. Peter, who had shrunk from suffering, now commends the need of suffering for the glory of God.

In our own power and understanding we will waffle between right and wrong like Peter. With the direction of the Holy Spirit, we have the potential to do the great things that God would have us to do, if we are willing followers.

Peter, by the help of the Holy Spirit, became a great servant of the Lord and His Church. You, too, can have that power to accomplish the good that God would have you to do.

M.C.Cook

## **WHERE WAS THE CHURCH?**

Matthew 28:18-20, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Last March was the fifteenth anniversary of my father's death. I am grateful to all of those who dropped what they were doing to minister to his physical and spiritual needs. The ambulance drivers and attendants, and the doctors and nurses dropped what they were doing and took care of him. Though he was full of cancer and had little hope of survival, everyone around saw his condition and I believe they did all they could.

On April 20 there was an incident at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. Two young men, brutally and systematically, shot up the school, killing and maiming, before killing themselves.



We have to ask the question, where was the church? Jesus told us He came to bind up the broken hearted, and to let the captives go free. I am sure there are many "churches" in Littleton, Colorado, and many who call themselves Christians. But where were they?

Back in the early 1960's, God's Word was removed from the public schools. Since then, much has been done to effectively silence anyone trying to do God's work in this area. This is a free country. There is no law saying anyone has to read the Bible, fellowship with Believers, become a Christian, or become a part of a local church. Yet Christians are commanded to affect others, to go, to teach others, to observe the commandments of the Lord, and to drop everything to help those in a needy condition.

The two young men who killed and maimed needed Jesus. Did anyone try to tell them, to show them? Was there anyone there to care? Where was the church?

Over a dozen souls plummeted into eternity. Were they ready to meet God? Many would say that the public schools had made their choice by rejecting God. I believe if we really love these souls we will find a way to help them.

It is true that we cannot see into the hearts of men. They may have already accepted or rejected the Lord. We are commanded to go and to teach, without prejudice, and with the love of Christ.

Hopefully, incidents like the one in Colorado will serve to awaken the church to greater needs than denominational arguments, and to show us that indeed a human soul is worth more than the whole world.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

## TEN LITTLE CHRISTIANS

Ten little Christians standing in line...

1 disliked the preacher then there were 9.

9 little Christians stayed up very late,

1 overslept Sunday, then there were 8.  
8 little Christians on their way to heaven,  
1 took the low road, and then there were 7.  
7 little Christians chirping like chicks,  
1 disliked the music, then there were 6.  
6 little Christians seemed very much alive,  
But 1 lost his interest, then there were 5.  
5 little Christians pulling for Heaven's Shore,  
But 1 stopped to rest, then there were 4.  
4 little Christians each busy as a bee,  
1 got his feelings hurt, then there were 3.  
3 little Christians knew not what to do,  
1 joined the sporty crowd, then there were 2.  
2 little Christians, our rhyme is nearly done,  
Differed with each other then there was 1.

1 little Christian can't do much, 'tis true-  
Brought his friend to Bible study, then there were...  
2 earnest Christians, each won one more,  
That doubled the number, then there were 4.  
4 sincere Christians worked early and late,  
Each won another, and then there were 8.  
8 splendid Christians if they doubled as before,  
In just so many Sundays, we'd have 1,024!  
In this little jingle, there is a lesson true,  
You belong either to the building, or to the wrecking crew!

-author unknown

Selected by Sister Mary Sue Moss

## KENYA KNOTES

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Kenya. We arrived safely, May 10, in Nairobi.  
We met Jeremiahs the next day at the Mennonite Mission House.

There we also met fellow missionaries who have served as many years as we plan to spend weeks. Leaving Africa for some is like a deep sea diver coming up out of the ocean, it has to be done slowly.

It was nice spending an extra day with Jeremiahs, being they missed the plane.

We left Nairobi the morning of the 14th and arrived in Kapenguria, after picking up the well driller in Nukura. He sealed the well here at the compound Saturday morning.

Church services were well attended with fifty-five people there. We were happy to see the children there. There were more this time than the last time. Hosea preached the sermon entitled "Are you going to Heaven?" The singing was in Swahili but we could recognize the tunes.

Monday was spent with Hosea getting the title for the property cleared.

Our first project is to work on the springs the other Brethren had started. However our main object is completing settlement for the mission compound.

We are looking forward to an exciting time here.

Our love and prayers,  
Brother Verling Wolfe, Sister Fern Wolfe  
and Brother Chad Sweitzer

## WHAT ARE YOU THEN?

As I was waiting for the oil to be changed in my car, the lady at the counter said, "Are you Amish?" When I said no, she responded, "What are you then?" I talked with her about twenty minutes about the Lord's church and His Word pertaining to our salvation and daily living.

Later, her words came back to me, "What are you then?" I have spent much time thinking about those words.

What are you then:

...a questioning Christian, wondering what God's word really means and whether the church has made the right decision?



...a passive Christian, staying in the background, hoping no one will ask about the Lord?

...a lukewarm Christian, no enthusiasm, no excitement, no fire in the heart for the Lord?

...a discouraged Christian, finding no joy in the Lord, no happiness in salvation?

...a wayward Christian, knowing you are on the wrong path and not caring very much?

...a rebellious Christian, wanting to change the church instead of letting Christ change you?

...a worrying Christian, fretting over matters beyond your control instead of letting go and letting God?

...a lazy Christian, hoping no one will ask you to do any of the Lord's work, but also hoping no one will notice when you don't?

...a joyous Christian, always finding wonder and amazement in God's love?

...a forgiving Christian, willing to overlook slights and offenses, forgiving and forgetting?

...an enthusiastic Christian, not being able to contain the love of God within yourself, but spreading the word abroad?

...a praying Christian, always seeking God's direction and guidance on your journey through life?

...a loving Christian, showing true love for the world, the brethren, the church and God?

...a submissive Christian, humbly submitting yourself to God and to His bride, the church, and not wanting your own will instead?

...a working Christian, having a love for the work of the church and being willing to give of yourself in whatever way is needed?

What are YOU then?

Sister Jolene Andrews

12306 E. 203rd St.

Raymore, MO 64083

## **WORSHIPPING AT THE ALTAR OF VIOLENCE**

Psalm 11:5, "The Lord trieth the righteous: but the wicked and

him that loveth violence his soul hateth."

Jeremiah 2:33-34, "Why trimmest thou thy way to seek love: therefore hast thou also taught the wicked ones thy ways. Also in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these."

Jeremiah 19:4, "Because they have forsaken me, and have estranged this place, and have burned incense in it upon other gods, whom neither they nor their fathers have known, nor the kings of Judah, and have filled this place with the blood of innocents;"

We are persuaded that the historical position of the Brethren concerning separation from the world holds practical as well as spiritual value. A few years ago it seemed as if things could not get much worse in the area of public and private violence. But, if it is possible, things have indeed continued to escalate in the realm of violent actions. Not only have the violent actions increased but the acceptance of violence seems to have grown along with them. The media reports more violence in Hollywood movies and television offerings. Hard rock music is reported to glorify violent actions in almost unbelievable portions and gruesome detail. Everything from killing police officers to parents and suicide has been reported as being part of the hard rock scene. Home videos and computer games along with game machines placed in public places are full of violence. Even many in society who hold no known religious convictions are speaking out against the trend. However, it appears that large numbers are still determined to worship at the altar of violence.

The subject of violence brings up some questions that are not easily answered. One of these is the acts of violence found in the Old Testament that were commanded by God. We must accept those portions of Holy Scripture which depict scenes of mass slaughter which was commanded by God as part of God's truth for that time. We do not believe we can accept such actions as the will of God for today. We must remember that Israel was a theocracy (a nation ruled directly by God) until her rebellion and desire for a king. Even then she remained the only nation on earth that could have its citizens named as God's chosen people. This was true

until the establishment of the Church, as we understand it. We must also remember that worldly governments are allowed to use violence to control unruly individuals and powers that would overthrow them according to Romans 13:1-5. With all due respect to those who hold government over us, we do question the willful killing of civilians in recent actions of a combined government force at the time of this writing. The fact that our president has made a statement that we are aiding Muslims who, according to him, are also children of God should bring us to the realization that violence will help to establish the working of a one world government that we see as a fulfillment of prophecy.

Another subject which brings about great controversy is the right of citizens to bear arms. Since this is a political issue we do not take an official stand on it. However, we are persuaded that this "right" has gone beyond practical bounds and limitations. What possible reason can be given for individuals to be allowed to own assault weapons such as machine guns and automatic rifles? We also see no good reason for being allowed to carry a hand gun. It has been argued that almost anything can be used as a weapon. This is true but how often have you read of mass murder with a weapon other than some type of gun or bombs? We should not deny our Brethren the right to own guns for hunting. Personally, we have no use for a gun.

It is sad that some church organizations and individuals worship peace. Compromise of God's Holy Word to bring about so-called-peace is forbidden. Along with our Brethren forefathers, we believe that Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace and taught that His followers should avoid all types of violence. It has been asked "what if everyone believed like you people?". The answer is that we would have a world of peace and harmony. This will never be until the second coming of the Prince of Peace. Until then let us refuse to worship at the altar of violence.

Brother James M. Hite  
816 E. Birch St.  
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704



## SCIENCE: ORDER AND REALITY

The reason for believing in Creation is that God says it is true. Man can only guess what happened in the beginning because he was not there. God was there, so He knows. Because man was not there, he has no proof against the Biblical creation. Both creation and evolution are matters of faith because man did not witness the origin of the universe.

Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Hebrews 11:3a, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God,..."

Creation and the Bible agree perfectly with true science. There is nothing scientific about evolution.

God began His creative work with nothing but Himself. He did not need materials to start with like people do.

Hebrews 11:3b, "...so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

Even this is in agreement with the Law of Biogenesis which states that living things can come only from living things. Living things on earth came from a living God in Heaven.

God tells us to study the universe that He has made in order to "subdue" the earth, as in the following verse.

Genesis 1:28a, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:..."

God created people in His image. This means that people are not like the animals, and are more valuable to God.

Genesis 1:26a, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:..."

Genesis 2:7, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

God gave all living things the ability to reproduce themselves after their own kind.

Genesis 1:24, "And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so."

God did allow for a certain amount of variety in the different kinds; for example, there can be different kinds of dogs, but no dog can have a litter of cats.

At the end of the six days of creation, God stopped creating and at this point the laws of nature went into effect. God, however, was not under these laws; for example, the miracle of multiplying the loaves and fishes and feeding the five thousand or walking on water.

Evolution cannot honestly answer the question, "Where did the universe come from?" Evolution is not scientific. It is merely a disproven hypothesis that has tricked many people into believing it. The only logical reason for believing in evolution is to escape accountability to God.

Evolution is not scientific because the study of science requires:

- (1) something to observe and analyze and record
- (2) someone to do the observing, analyzing, and recording
- (3) the ability to repeat this scientific work.

Evolution has none of these things. The earth itself is a testimony to creation, not evolution. Evolutionary ideas constantly change; they are as varied as the individuals that think them up.

Ultimately, any theory on how the world came into existence must be taken by faith. No human can scientifically prove any idea of this sort. If a person thinks logically, it comes down to this question: "Which makes more sense? Evolution (complex things came about by chance) or creation (complex things came about by orderly design and plan)?"

There are not very many choices about what to believe; on one hand, there is the belief that everything came about by accident; on the other hand is Genesis 1:1 — "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Respectfully submitted  
Adam Lehigh

## WHAT IS POLITY?

I always thought that the word "polity" was something somebody made up. So I looked in the dictionary and sure enough it was there. Definition 4a "the form of government of a religious organization." That certainly describes our Polity Book, at least in part. But there is more to it than that.

Have you ever been to a Bible study where on any given scripture, the entire group agrees on the meaning of the passage? I never have. The norm seems to be that the number of meanings for a given passage is the same as the number of people in the room. I think you will agree that it is difficult to agree on what the Bible says.

So how does a Christian find true fellowship in such a diverse base of opinion? Find a group that shares many of your same beliefs. How do you find such a group? Visit different groups and/or talk to the members and find out what that group believes. If they do not have it written down somewhere, the answers may vary greatly from member to member. That is what our polity book does. It states what the group, "Dunkard Brethren," believes the Bible is saying about a wide range of topics that are commonly disagreed upon by people who read the Bible. Some of the topics it addresses are: the trinity, baptism, state of man, creation, free-will, pardon, attire, divorce, plus many other topics. It also includes instructions on how to conduct ourselves when we have church business such as accepting members, calling ministers, electing officers, and conducting meetings.

If we do not know what the polity book says and why, then we should study it. If we find something we disagree with we have several options. We can ask questions to help our understanding and clear our disagreement. If we still disagree we can choose to compromise our belief and abide by the statement of the belief to preserve unity. If the matter is of such nature that we cannot abide by it or it merits enough importance we can write a query to have the question discussed and decided upon as a body and then abide by the decision. We can choose not to abide by the statement of belief and thereby impair the unity of the group. We can leave the group and find another one that we agree with more closely. The



easiest group to join is one that does not have any statements of belief. You will need to compromise some of your beliefs with any group that you may join. If you openly do not abide by the beliefs of the group then you are destroying unity and are in the state of rebellion. We know that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, I Sam. 15:23. I certainly want to avoid witchcraft as I am sure that you do too!

When working in Kenya I found a group of men who earnestly desired to understand the beliefs of the Dunkard Brethren so they could teach their flocks. We studied the polity together. I found little that I felt needed changing except in format of presentation, and only small things in my beliefs that I will compromise. I found the polity book to be a handy reference to aid in finding scripture to answer many questions that people have about what the Bible says on many subjects. It is not a tract to be given to unbelievers because it is too brief and cannot fully cover a topic like a tract can. It is written to members and those earnestly considering membership.

What do the Dunkard Brethren believe? It is mostly written down in our polity book. I pray that if you find yourself disagreeing with it that you are taking steps to reconcile that disagreement. Steps that do not include rebellion or disturbing unity. Concerning the rest of what the Dunkard Brethren believe, let us continue to be further "weaned from the milk", Isaiah 28:9, and pray, and study, and discover together "precept upon precept; line upon line," , Isaiah 28:10, "and be established in the present truth", II Peter 1:12, so that we "all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement", I Cor. 1:10.

God's Peace  
Brother Tim Scofield

## **A GLANCE AT THE PAST AND A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE**

Luke 16:19-31

Here we have an account of three men. They were real men

who lived on the earth at the time or before Jesus Christ came. In Jesus' own words, He tells the story. His account is true—He never told a lie. He never cracked jokes or let His mind ramble in fairy tales to pass the time away.

Some Bible students classify this account as a parable, but Christ said, "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus, evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he (the rich man) said, I pray thee therefore, father that thou wouldest sent him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he (Abraham) said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead." Luke 16:19-31.

Now there are a number of facts quoted in this conversation. This account does have some similarity to the parables; in as much as similar happenings happen to anyone over and over again. No names are quoted in parables, or any specific or special happening occurs. In this account, there was a specific happening involving specific people. Abraham lived approximately 1900 years before Christ came to earth. Here he is specifically mentioned. We

have no date of the rich man and Lazarus, but evidently it was before Christ's time, or possibly during Christ's early years. Christ, as a human being, may have met both the rich man and Lazarus. In His heavenly body He may also have met Abraham. Who knows?

The rich man and his brothers had wealth. They were selfish and cared not for the poor. They just coveted all the wealth they could come by. Lazarus died and an angel spirited him away to Abraham's bosom, a place of rest, to await the crucifixion of Christ.

As soon as Christ's blood was shed, no doubt, there were some of the Old Testament Saints, who arose out of their graves and walked the streets of Jerusalem. Matt. 28:52. The writer could never understand this particular resurrection until fairly recently. It just dawned on me that this was the resurrection of the Old Testament Saints who were covered only by animal blood sacrifices and obedience. They had been held in a place of rest called Abraham's bosom until the redeeming blood of Christ was shed. They were immediately released and came forth out of their graves. This was an unusual happening, much more so than the various parables.

It gives us light into the past and also a glimpse into what will happen in the future. One of those glimpses is found in Abraham telling the rich man how his brothers would react if one went back from the dead. He said that they would not believe him. Christ resurrected from the dead and people still would not accept this truth and take this account as our Saviour said it would be.

This is one of the many places in the Scriptures that all of us should search the Bible with ready hearts to believe the Gospel as the Lord leads us. The hour is late and we have very little time left to put on the true, tried and verified whole armour of God and be prepared for the days, months and years that we may have left to get ready.

As I understand the Scriptures I see two more wars—worse than has ever been on the face of this earth. Then Christ will come with His 144,000 Bride Church. The foolish virgins will be too late to go to the supper, but after giving their all will be accepted as servants in the Kingdom of God. Rev. 22:3.

It is high time to study, fast and do. May God give each reader



a strong and deep heart's desire to take time to search the Scriptures, which do not contradict themselves. It will be time well spent. The knowledge gained could be the difference between an everlasting life of joy or continual death pangs in the fiery furnace prepared for the devil and his angels.

May God bless the reader as he or she seeks Biblical truth.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder  
6159 Garrett Hwy.  
Oakland, MD 21550

### IS YOUR SOUL INSURED?

"Pa," said a little boy as he climbed to his father's knee, and looked into his face as earnestly as if he understood the importance of the subject, "Pa, is your soul insured?"

"What are you thinking about, my son?" replied the agitated father. "Why do you ask that question?"

"Why, Pa, I heard Uncle George say that you had your house insured, and your life insured; but he didn't believe you had thought of your soul, and he was afraid you would lose it; won't you get it insured right away?"

The father leaned his head on his hand, and was silent. He owned broad acres of land that were covered with a bountiful produce; his barns were even now filled with plenty, his buildings were all well covered by insurance; and as if that would not suffice for the maintenance of his wife and only child in case of his decease, he had, the day before, taken a life-policy for a large amount; yet not one thought had he given to his own immortal soul. On that which was to waste away and become part and parcel of its native dust he had spared no pains; but for that which was to live on and on through the long ages of eternity he had made no provision. "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

## **CHOICE SELECTIONS FROM GOD'S TREASURE HOUSE OF TRUTH**

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.—  
Psa. 118:8.

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion  
of fools shall be destroyed.—Prov. 13:20.

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any  
people.—Prov. 14:34.

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the  
evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I  
have no pleasure in them.—Ecc. 12:1.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and  
keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.—Ecc.  
12:13.

Come now, and let us reason together saith the Lord; though  
your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they  
be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.—Isa. 1:18.

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they  
shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be  
weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.—Isa. 40:31.

Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I  
am God, and there is none else.—Isa. 45:22.

Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for  
the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye  
shall find rest for your souls.—Jer. 6:16.

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the  
Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk  
humbly with thy God?—Micah 6:8.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be  
meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of  
hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you  
out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.—  
Mal. 3:10.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.—Matt. 5:8.

Ye are the salt of the earth...the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.—Matt. 5:13-16.

All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway.—Matt 28:18-20.

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.—Mark 16:15-16.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.—Luke 2:14.

Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.—Luke 4:8.

Thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.—Luke 24:46-47.

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.—John 1:29.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.—John 3:16-17.

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight.—John 18:36.

God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.—Acts 10:34-35.

Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men.—Acts 24:16.



I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.—Rom. 1:16.

Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:...and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.—Rom. 5:1-2.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.—Rom. 12:1.

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.—II Cor. 10:4.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.—Gal. 6:10.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.—Gal 6:14.

Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.—Eph. 4:32.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.—Phil 4:8.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.—Heb. 12:14.

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.—I Pet. 1:22.

Selected from June 15, 1939 Bible Monitor

## **OUR SATURDAY NIGHT**

Giving Up the Semicolon

J. H. Moore

Henry Clay Trumbull, for years editor of the Sunday School

Times, while always kind, fairly pliable and reasonable in the end, had notions of his own, and sometimes he clung to them with considerable tenacity, even when confronted by others in whose judgment he had much confidence. He was much given to the use of the semicolon, in his writings, and sometimes used it where the comma more properly belonged. One day his proofreader called his attention to the wrong use of the semicolon, telling him that the comma should be employed instead. He chose to differ with her, though she was an expert at the business and had been reading proof for him for years. The matter happened to come up again and the managing editor took sides with the proofreader. Mr. Trumbull stood by his semicolon, arguing the case with both of them. Becoming a little agitated he put on his hat and started out, but before closing the door behind him, said, in his emphatic way, that he would give up editorial work on the paper before he would give up that semicolon. After walking around awhile, he returned, looking perfectly reconciled, and said to his proofreader and managing editor that he had decided to give up the semicolon.

But the semicolon people are not all dead yet, nor are they disposed to give up their semicolon. They get pet notions and hang to them as though their very life and prosperity depended upon some particular way of doing or looking at things. It is well for Christian men and women to cling to principles with all reasonable firmness, but when it comes to methods, in which the judgment of others may be of value, it will be found exceedingly unwise to persist in having our own way, regardless of results. Many a man has sacrificed much for a pet notion that was of no special value. This has been the case in matters pertaining to domestic and business matters as well as in religious matters. Men have been known to give up the church rather than surrender some pet notion of little consequence. Families have been divided and broken up because of a few pet notions. Some of these pet notions have severed the strong ties of friendship, and it is to be feared that some of them have kept people out of heaven. It will often be found wise to do like Mr. Trumbull,—decide to give up the semicolon.

## THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD

All we like sheep have gone astray,  
Have turned from Him to our own way,  
We've wandered from the shelter of  
the Shepherd's fold.

Out on the rugged mountainside,  
Lost and alone, we seek to hide,  
And find a place of warmth  
and shelter from the cold.

Then from afar we hear His call,  
His gentle words, like snowflakes, fall  
Soft on our ears, they  
settle gently in our souls.  
"My precious lamb, come unto Me!  
My yoke of love fits easily.  
Through storm and wind, there's safety in  
the Shepherd's fold."

As little lambs, we'll follow Him,  
Through sunshine bright, or shadows dim,  
While breezes sing, or while the  
loudest thunder rolls.  
O'er rocky road, through pastures green,  
We'll trust in Him, for we have seen,  
He cares for us, at home within  
the Shepherd's fold.

-Sister Arlene Stamy  
28750 RD LL  
McClave, CO 810571



## I ASKED GOD

I asked God to take away my pride.

God said "No".

It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said "No".

Her spirit was whole, her body was only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said "No".

Patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is earned.

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said "No".

I give you blessings, happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said "No".

Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said "No".

I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.

God said...Ahhhh, finally you have the idea!

What if GOD couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank HIM yesterday?

What if GOD decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow HIM today?

What if we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when GOD sent the rain?

What if GOD didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as HIS day?

What if GOD took away His message because we failed to listen to the messenger?

What if GOD didn't send His only begotten Son because He wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for sin?

What if the door of the church was closed because we did not open the door of our heart?

What if GOD stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?

What if GOD would not hear us today because we would not listen to Him yesterday?

What if GOD answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service?

What if GOD met our needs the way we give Him our lives???

We serve an awesome God!!

Selected by Brother Roy Litfin

## THE DASH

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of his friend. He referred to the dates on her tombstone from the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came the date of her birth and spoke of the second date with tears,

But he said that what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth,

And now only those who loved her know what that little line is worth.  
For it matters not, how much we own; the cars, the house, the cash.

What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.  
So think about this long and hard, are there things you'd like to change?

For you never know how much time is left. (You could be at "dash mid-range".)

If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and what's real,

And always try to understand the way other people feel.

And...be less quick to anger, and show appreciation more

And love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect, and more often wear a smile,

Remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to re-hash...

Will you be pleased with the things they say about how you spend your dash?

Selected by Sister Fern Wolfe

## MARRIAGES

### CARPENTER-PETERS

Brother Loren Carpenter, son of Brother and Sister Robert Carpenter of Peru, Indiana was united in Holy Matrimony with Sister Betsy Peters, daughter of Brother and Sister Ron Peters of Modesto, California. The wedding was held at 1:30 P.M., January 1, 1999, at the Modesto Church of the Brethren, Modesto, California. The ceremony was conducted by Brother Robert Carpenter. The newlyweds reside at Box 189, Converse, Indiana 46919.

### CARPENTER-CHAPMAN

Brian Carpenter, son of Brother and Sister Robert Carpenter of



Peru, Indiana was united in Holy Matrimony with Jessica Chapman, daughter of Joseph and Christine Vallero of Concord, California. The wedding was held at 4:00 P.M., April 24, 1999, at College Corner Brethren Church, Wabash, Indiana. The ceremony was conducted by Brother Robert Carpenter. The newlyweds reside at 10768 S, 700 W., Amboy, Indiana 46911.

## OBITUARY

### ALICE LITFIN

Sis. Alice Elizabeth Litfin was born the daughter of William E. and Annie M. (Harrison) Myers on Saturday, June 4, 1904, in Surrey, North Dakota.

She grew up and went to school in North Dakota. On June 27, 1930, she was married to Paul O. Litfin in Minot, North Dakota. The family came to Oregon in 1945 and Alice went to work for the Model Laundry where she worked for twenty-five years before she retired. In 1977 Paul O. Litfin preceded her in death.

At church she was the Treasurer for several years. She also served as song leader and taught Sunday School for the Primary classes. She was the most happy when she could bake and prepare a meal for her family, sometimes baking as many as twenty loaves of bread at a time to give to her family. Alice was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church in Newberg, Oregon and always loved her garden and flowers. Her hobbies were crocheting, embroidery, and putting together picture puzzles. She also loved reading and keeping her home.

On Tuesday, March 16, 1999, Alice Elizabeth Litfin died at her Newberg home when she was ninety-four years, nine months, and twelve days of age.

Surviving and left to honor her life are two sons, Galen R. Litfin and his wife Lillian of Newberg, Oregon, and Doyle A Litfin and his wife Sharon of LaSalle, Colorado; two daughters, Reva E. Murch of Newberg, Oregon, and Letha Brown of Modesto, California; one brother, Walter Myers of San Diego, California; one sister, Esther Bloxhan of Vancouver, Washington; sixteen grandchildren; twenty-

six great-grandchildren; twenty-eight nieces and nephews; and those who have come to know and appreciate her where she has lived and worked. Four brothers, Ray, Harold, William, and Preston Myers; and two sisters, Carrie Laycock, and Bernadine Stemen, preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held on Monday, March 22, 1999, at 11:00 A.M. in Attrell's Newberg Funeral Chapel, Newberg, Oregon with Elder Henry Walker officiating. Burial was at Valley View Memorial Park, Newberg, Oregon.

### MEETING NOTICES

June 5-9 - General Conference, Ceres, California

June 18-27 - Revival Meeting, Pleasant Ridge, Ohio

July 9-18 - Revival Meeting, Hart, Michigan

July 23-Aug.1 - Revival Meeting, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

August 8-15 - Revival Meeting, Dallas Center, Iowa

August 13-22 - Revival Meeting, Swallow Falls, Maryland

August 20-29 - Revival Meeting, Englewood, Ohio

### LOVEFEAST NOTICES

July 17 - Hart, Michigan

August 14 - Dallas Center, Iowa

August 21 - Swallow Falls, Maryland

### NEWS ITEMS

#### PROGRESS ON VOLUME FOUR OF THE BRETHREN ENCYCLOPEDIA

As announced previously, work is well under way on the fourth volume of The Brethren Encyclopedia. The first three volumes were released in 1983-1984. The Board of Directors authorized the compilation and production of a fourth volume.

This capstone volume will contain three major elements: 1. new articles on developments since 1980, the cutoff date of the first volumes; 2. corrections and additions to the data of the first volumes; and 3. a complete index to all data in the four volumes.

Editorial work is centered at Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, Virginia, under the direction of co-editor Carl F. Bowman, head of the department of sociology and well-known Brethren historian. He is aided by Darin Keith Bowman, on the College residential staff. The Encyclopedia office has made assignments of new articles, collected completed drafts of these articles, and is now in the process of editing. At the same time, a team under the leadership of Professor Dale V. Ulrich is completing the process of the scanning into computers and the proofing of data included in the first three volumes, to make ready for the compilation of the index.

Co-editor D. F. Durnbaugh, based at Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, has collected needed corrections and additions to previously published articles and lists. He has also compiled an update of the comprehensive bibliography on Brethren topics printed in volume three of the reference work.

This publication is supervised by members of the Board of Directors of The Brethren Encyclopedia, which met recently (April 19) at Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, Ohio. Members of the editorial board for volume four are: Fred W. Benedict and Glenn Landes (Old German Baptist Brethren); Dale R. Stoffer and Bradley Wiedenhamer (Brethren Church); Robert Lehigh and Jacob C. Ness (Dunkard Brethren Church); Jerry Young and Ronald Clutter (Grace Brethren); and Donald E. Miller and Kenneth M. Shaffer, Jr. (Church of the Brethren).

Donald F. Durnbaugh

Submitted by Brother Robert Lehigh

#### PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, Pleasant Ridge Congregation will have Revival Meetings, June 18 through 27 with Bro. Paul Skiles as our evangelist.

We welcome all to come to these services and pray and wor-



ship with us.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

### THANKYOU

To our Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We would like to thank each of you for all the cards, gifts and prayers during our times of illness. We are both doing well now, and want to let you know we appreciate everything. May God bless each of you.

In His Love

Brother Wayne and Sister Vicki Burgess

### A NOTE OF THANKS

I want to thank each one that sent me cards. May God richly bless each of you.

Sister Barbara Stump

### READER, BEA WRITER

The Editor's files are about empty. It is time for the readers of this paper to write articles. Just get the thought you have down on paper, the Editor will take care of the punctuation and grammar. There are others who need to read what you have gleaned from your Bible study. Without your original articles, you will find only selected pieces that do not always put it as well as you could have. Read the Editioal policy in the February, 1999 issue, then write.

Thank you,  
The Editor

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1999

July 4 - Seeking The Kingdom Of God: Present And Future - Luke 12:22-48.

1. What is the Kingdom of God?
2. Why will our heart be where our treasure is?

July 11 - Christ Divides And Subjects - Luke 12:49-13:9.

1. If Christ is the Prince of Peace, why did He come to cause division?
2. Why do bad things happen to good people?

July 18 - Loosed From Bondage And Kingdom Parables - Luke 13:10-35.

1. How can Christ free us from bondage today?
2. What is the Kingdom of God like?

July 25 - Too Religious To Love, Too Proud To Be Humble, Too Busy To Come - Luke 14:1-24.

1. What must we do in order to be recompensed at the resurrection of the just?
2. All who refused to come to the great supper each had the same basic problem. What is it?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1999**

July 4 - Daily Devotions - Gen. 28:16-22, I Sam. 1:19, Job 1:5, Luke 2:37, Acts 10:1-4.

1. How often should we meet with our Heavenly Father?
2. What does it mean to be "a devout man" as was said of Cornelius?

July 11 - Are We Indifferent? - Isa. 47:8-11, Matt. 22:1-14.

1. Are we worthy to attend the wedding?
2. What is the wedding garment we are required to wear?

July 18 - Examples - Lev. 20:22-26, John 13:15, I Tim. 4:10-16, I Peter 2:18-25.

1. Why does God abhor the heathen?
2. Who is our example?

July 25 - Our Expectations - Psalm 62:1-12, Phil. 1:20-30.

1. From whom should our expectations come?
2. What expectations does God have for His children?

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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXVII

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## WHEN WAVES OF TROUBLE ROUND ME SWELL

When waves of trouble round me swell,  
My soul is not dismayed;  
I hear a voice I know full well—  
"Tis I; be not afraid."

When black the threat'ning skies appear,  
And storms my path invade,  
Those accents tranquilize each fear—  
"Tis I; be not afraid."

There is a gulf that must be crossed;  
Savior, be near to aid!  
Whisper, when my frail bark is tossed—  
"Tis I; be not afraid."

There is a dark and fearful vale,  
Death hides within its shade;  
O say, when flesh and heart shall fail—  
"Tis I; be not afraid."

-Unknown

## JAIRUS

Of the many miracles that Jesus performed, we often are most impressed by the three times that He raised people from the dead. He raised Jairus' daughter from the dead. He raised the Widow of Nain's son to life. Probably the most well known of these resurrections was that of Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha.

When thinking about the resurrection of Jairus' daughter, we are most interested in the actual scene of Him raising her to life. It was in the midst of ridicule, that Jesus touched her and brought back her life. He had told the weepers and wailers that she only slept but they knew better. We can only imagine the intensity of their astonishment when the girl walked before them.

Thinking of that event, we can only marvel at His power. However it would also be well for us to look at some of the traits of Jairus as we consider this miraculous event.

When Jesus came to the vicinity of Jairus' home, Jairus came to ask him to heal his daughter. Evidently he had heard of the miracles that Jesus had performed before this. He was willing to seek the help of Jesus. She must have been sick for some time. Jairus realized that the time of crisis would be soon. She would either be healed, miraculously, or die.

Jairus came to Jesus although he was the ruler of the synagogue. Jesus was viewed as a danger to the religious establish-

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ment of Judaism. Jairus was a part of that establishment. His need overrode his ego. He asked Jesus for this favor. How many bypass the blessings that Jesus could bring them, if they would only humble themselves before him? Many just can not ask Him for the help, they can get from no one else.

Jairus fell at the feet of Jesus. This was an act of worship, acknowledging that Jesus was worthy. Worship shows that one realizes that there is another who is greater than themselves. Jairus knew he was approaching the One who had come from God and had the power to work miracles for the people's benefit. All men must approach Jesus and God through worship. They must realize their inability. God is all powerful and able to do far above what a man could even ask or think.

Jairus came to ask for another. He asked for the health and life of his daughter. At twelve her life was on the brink of young adulthood. Her years of productive living were just before her. Her father wished for her to be able to enjoy that time. Supplication is an important part of a Christian's prayer life. Prayer is not only an opportunity to seek the needs of our own lives but to seek the best for others. There should be a concern for the physical, emotional, financial and especially the Spiritual needs of others.

Jairus came with a prayer on his lips. He was seeking the help of God. He knew that a prayer was the concession that there was one greater to whom the request was being made. Prayer not only makes a request, prayer also offers praise and worship. It acknowledges the greatness of the One being asked for a favor.

Jesus consented to go with Jairus. A large throng of people also accompanied them as they made their way toward Jairus' house. In the midst of that multitude was the woman with the unquenched issue of blood. She was healed by touching the hem of His garment. Jesus stopped the procession at that time to point out that the healing had taken place. We might expect during this delay, that Jairus might have become impatient. Yet we do not see any sign that he tried to hurry Jesus along toward his house. We can learn of patience and allowing Jesus to do His work in His way from this pause in the journey.

After this interruption, Jairus' servants came to tell him that there was no further use of detaining Jesus for his daughter was dead. This might seem a crushing blow. Some might have thought that Jairus had neglected his duty by leaving his daughter at the point of death to go and find Jesus. What more could he have done for her than what he had already done?

Jesus quickly assured him to continue to believe. This Jairus did in the face of a seemingly impossible situation. Surely, he did not know what was going to happen but he was willing to believe that Jesus was able to improve the situation. Jesus was looking for faith of that magnitude. Would He find a similar faith within us?

Despite the hopelessness surrounding that home and family, we find that Jesus did fulfill Jairus' faith. The daughter arose and walked amongst those who had lately doubted.

How could the example of Jairus possibly challenge each of us to maintain an unshakable faith? Would you ever be mistaken for Jairus?

M.C.Cook

## THE BODY OF CHRIST

Mark 9:38-40, "And John answered him, saying, Master we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part."

I remember when I was little and we were getting ready to go to a church conference I was asking many questions as to why this meeting was so special. One question was who would be there. I was told that churches from all over were going to be meeting together. I was thinking that would be neat. From the song we sang in Sunday School,

"Jesus loves the little children,

All the children of the world.

Red and yellow, black and white,

They are precious in his sight.

Jesus loves the little children of the world."

I got the idea we would be seeing people from all over the world: Japanese, Chinese, Africans and other Indians. When I got there, my mom was the only one that was different. I remember being disappointed at not getting to play with any Japanese or Chinese my age, and how I was treated differently because I was half Navajo. All through school I was never treated as an equal. Being half Navajo Indian and half German, I have a good idea how the minorities feel in the body of Christ as well as in the world. I feel encouraged to see brothers in Africa appointed as ministers.

In I Corinthians 12 we read about the body of Christ, the Church, and how it is made up of many members, each working together because they cannot work alone. One member cannot do the work of the other. An eye cannot hear, the feet cannot breathe air.

We are all part of the body of Christ. Every one is given a spiritual gift, a calling from God that is different from others. Are we all apostles? No. Are we all prophets? No. Are all teachers? No. Are all workers of miracles? No. Have all the gifts of healing? No. Do all speak with tongues? No. Do all interpret? No. "But covet earnestly the best gifts and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." What is that more excellent way? Though I dress and act as a Dunkard Brethren believer and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal, is that right? Same thought. The rest of the chapter goes on to tell what the more excellent way is. What is that best gift of all? To show charity! To show love one to another! To be an encouragement to everyone around us.

I Corinthians 14:12, "Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church." This is a big calling, to encourage the members of the body of Christ. The words of Jesus in Mark are, "Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part."

We see the hands working one place and hear of the feet working in another. Just think of the blessings if the Church would work



together. If the Church would offer encouragement and prayer support over doubt or pulling away. Just think of the growth we could see in the body of Christ.

Luke 10:2, "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." The church has many members, but not all receive the same calling, or we would all be doing the same thing. Some are called to Torreón, some to Africa, some to the streets, and some to the prisons. Each one who is called needs our prayers and the blessing of God to help him in everything he does.

Matthew 12:31-32, "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." These are serious words from the Bible that I do not fully understand. One thing I do know is not to try to go against the Holy Ghost. Many are called to a service for God, and by their fruits we will know them. Do we stop them? If we try, who are we against? Can the feet understand what the lungs are doing? Do the hands see or feel? Is any one part of the body less important than another part? Even the uncomely parts are important, for without them the body will die.

At General Conference in California this year the theme was "Countdown to Eternity - Facing a New Millennium". The overall message to me was to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in what ever mission field He may be calling us to. For some it may be next door, and others to wherever the Spirit may lead. For everyone, it was a call to love the unlovable. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Revelation 4:11, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure thy are and were created." Every one of us was created for the pleasure of Jesus. No one is unimportant. Not only did God

create each one of us, but Jesus gave His life on the cross for our sins that we might have eternal life with Him. I praise God He loves each one of us as a special person.

Each one of us by choice gets the opportunity to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. By choice we get to grow and work together with the Body of Christ, by choice we can be one who offers encouragement or strife. The human side of me wants to yell, "Get your act together," but now I see from the spiritual side. Each one of us gets to choose if we will be self-centered or willing to work together with all our brothers and sisters in Jesus.

Hebrews 3:7-8, "Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:" We are warned to not let our hearts become hardened to what the Holy Ghost has to say. Each one of us is given a spiritual gift for service to God. Let's not hide it under a rock, but use it to the glory of God.

May the peace of God fill you with His presence so that all those around you will ask for that same peace.

Love in Jesus Christ  
Brother Roy Litfin

## KENYA KNOTES

Greetings in Jesus Precious Name. We have been very busy working on springs at Kapenguria and Makutano and getting settlement for the compound.

On June 15, 1999, we had settlement for the six acres which has two houses on and a building out back for 2 million 600 thousand shillings.

We have visited Kaplomi church which is forty-five minutes south east. Ortum Church where Moses is the leader is one hour north. Kaptalamwa, where Fredrick is the leader, is directly east which took two and a half hours to reach. It is high in the cold mountains. We were so glad it was dry when we went because the last time we were there only the Lord brought us through the mud. It started raining while we were there but we had a safe trip home. The

church there is growing. Praise the Lord.

We took a trip north to Lodwar, which is 283 kilometers north in the dry desert. There we saw dromedaries. I can see Rebecca getting water for Abraham's servant's camels. (Gen. 24) They are more primitive there. We went through lots of dry river beds. The next day we had a boat ride on Lake Tuokana and again I could picture Christ on a boat like it. We checked the nets on the way back. Saturday we went to a Camp Kakuma, a camp of 70,000 refugees. We arrived home before dark, over some roads that were so bad we drove along the side.

Sunday we went to Chepkomiswa where they have another nice church family.

The other house on the mission compound is finally empty so there is a lot of work to do so Hoseas' family can move in.

God bless you greatly for your support and prayers.

Sister Fern Wolfe

## **STATEMENT OF THE DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH**

The Dunkard Brethren Church is one of the Historic Peace Churches. Her convictions are founded on the fundamental belief in a Supreme Being. Her counsels, based upon New Testament commands, have always been opposed to participation in war in any or all forms. She makes no distinction between what are sometimes termed "just" and "unjust" wars. All wars are considered wrong for the Christian to engage in because of the taking of human life and destruction of property. Although having no creed other than the New Testament, to live peacefully with all men has ever been the aim and rule of her members.

The "Dunkard" faith was established in 1708 by Alexander Mack and associates in Schwarzenau, Germany and migrated to America in 1719. The faith was perpetuated by the German Baptist Brethren, the Church of the Brethren, by the Dunkard Brethren Church since 1926. All of whom practiced the principles of non-resistance.

A conscientious objector position among her members is not a



new thing. During the American Revolution our Annual Conference in 1781 passed the following article:

“Exhort in union all brethren to hold themselves  
guiltless and to take no part in war or bloodshedding.”

And in 1785, the Annual Conference passed the following article:

“First, we do not understand at all that we can  
give ourselves up to violence...we can not see or  
find any liberty to use any carnal sword.”

Again, during the Civil war, at Annual Conference in 1865, in answer to the question of whether it was right for our brethren to bear arms, the following answer was given:

“We consider that we have no right to take up arms.”

In 1940 the following letter was sent to the President of the United States.

The Dunkard Brethren Church, in Annual General Conference, Quinter, Kansas, June 5, 1940, petition you to hear and consider the following:

As a Christian people, throughout more than two hundred years, we have maintained non-resistance as an integral part of our faith, therefore we petition that we may be granted exemption from any and all forms of military service, in case this country becomes involved in war.

Since the National Constitution grants freedom of religious worship, and since we have no code or confession of faith other than the New Testament, we follow its teachings. “If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.” “Recompense to no man evil for evil.” (Romans 8:9 and 12:17) “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:19-21) The Saviour said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight.” (John 18:36) Romans 13:9

renewed the command, "Thou shalt not kill." "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in Heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matthew 5:43-45)

"And behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?" (Matthew 26:51-54)

Our brethren are ready and willing to suffer for the cause of their faith, if need be, rather than be forced to bear arms, which they cannot conscientiously do. They are largely farmers. When man-power is in demand, as in war times, it would seem more rational to permit them to remain at work on farms, or to place those not already in agriculture, into industry or into reconstruction work, rather than to penalize them for refusal to bear arms by placing them in camps or perhaps by imprisonment, thereby keeping them out of productive activity.

Since 1941, we have cooperated with the National Service Board for Religious Objectors now known as National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors. We have discontinued our affiliation with that organization because they have increasingly advocated political and philosophical stands that do not correspond with our Biblical view of non-resistance.

The preceding statement was adopted by the 1999 General Conference of the Dunkard Brethren Church affirming her continued adherence to the Biblical doctrine of nonresistance.

## REDEMPTION - THE PRICE OF RESTORATION

Harold Good

The depravity of man emphasis the need for a Redeemer. Man is unable to deliver himself from the clutches of Satan. Looking at it from the other direction, the great price required for man's redemption accentuates the extent of man's ruin.

The English word redeem means: (1) to buy back, (2) to set free by paying a ransom, (3) to deliver from sin and its penalties, (4) to make amends or atone. In the New Testament the words redeem and redemption are translated from a few different Greek words. From these we gather two basic meanings: (1) the buying of a slave at the marketplace with a view to his freedom, and (2) a release on the receipt of a ransom.

How do these thoughts relate to the spiritual redemption of man? Did God really need to buy man back? Did man not belong to God by right of creation? Even though God created man, He gave man the responsibility to choose. As a result of man's choice he is enslaved to sin, and is being held hostage by the enemy. God in His love and mercy provided the ransom to release man. He bought man from slavery in order to give him freedom.

Whenever we think of buying or paying we usually think of money. But man was redeemed with something of far greater value than a material medium of exchange. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold...But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." I Peter 1:18-19.

What greater price could have been given than the blood of God's own Son? Blood signifies the taking of a life. "Without shedding of blood is no remission." If blood alone would have sufficed, a pint or two could have been drawn from the body of our Saviour. But the buying back of man required a life. God gave heaven's best for the redemption of wayward man.

Consider the price of the Son Himself. In leaving heaven He allowed the fullest manifestation of His glory to be veiled in flesh. Even though Jesus was untainted by sin, in becoming a man He identified with sordid humanity. For Jesus, all of life was a giving



for the sake of man. His life of self-denial culminated in the ultimate sacrifice. Our Lord gave all a man could possibly give - His very life. "He hath poured out his soul unto death."

The value of something is many times determined by its scarcity. No one else could have given his life for the redemption of man. Had Jesus not died we would be forever doomed and separated from God.

The remarkable truth of man's redemption is beautifully illustrated by a number of Old Testament types. Two Hebrew words have the meaning "to redeem." The one word refers to the payments required for the redemption of the firstborn or for the release of persons from slavery. It especially lays stress on the purchase price. The other word is sometimes used, in the legal sense, of the recovery of property which had passed into other hands. It particularly points to the kinsman side of redemption. The one word speaks of price; the other of the person paying the price. We immediately recognize those two aspects in the salvation Christ has provided.

As the destroyer passed through Egypt, God spared the firstborn in every home that had applied the blood. Consequently, God declared that every firstborn of man or beast belonged to Him. The firstborn of animals needed to be redeemed, or sacrificed to God, and the firstborn of men needed to be redeemed (Exodus 34:20). Actually, the firstborn belonged to God before the last plague was brought upon the Egyptians. But after God spared His people from that judgment, He in a special way claimed the firstborn for Himself (see also Numbers 3:12, 41, 46; 8:13-19). So it is with us today. We are God's by creation, but we belong to Him even more because of redemption.

According to Exodus 30:11-16 everyone twenty years and older among those who were numbered needed to pay half a shekel of silver as a ransom for his soul. This silver was then used in the service of the sanctuary (Exodus 38:25-26). The same amount was required from each one regardless of his ability to pay. The rich were not to give more, and the poor were not to pay less. This typifies New Testament salvation in that everyone needs the work of Christ and every individual needs it equally. Regardless of one's

background or station in life he needs the total price that was given for man's redemption. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

God stressed to His people that the land given to them belonged to Him. They were strangers and sojourners with Him. To help keep this concept alive among His people, God ruled that the land was not to be sold, but it was to be kept in the families who inherited it. God, however, knew the possibility for a person to come into financial straits and out of necessity sell the land. He made provision in the law that the land could be redeemed by a close relative and thereby be restored to the family that had it originally.

There was also the possibility that an Israelite because of extreme poverty would sell himself as a bondsman to a stranger. Again the law provided that a near kinsman could redeem a person who had sold himself. Boaz performed the duty of a near kinsman by buying all the land that was Elimelech's, Chilion's, and Mahlon's. He also bought Ruth to be his wife to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance. There was a nearer kinsman than Boaz but he was not able to redeem it lest he would mar his own inheritance. The nearer kinsman is typical of natural man who is not able to redeem himself. Neither can sinful man do anything to change the lost condition of his fellowman. Boaz is a type of Jesus who became our kinsman redeemer by becoming a man. "Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." (Hebrews 2:17). Boaz was willing and able to redeem Ruth. So Jesus with the fulness of divine love and possessing the resources of heaven, redeemed fallen humanity.

Another Old Testament illustration of redemption is seen in the life of Hosea. His wife was unfaithful to him and because of her harlotry was reduced to a slave. God told Hosea to love her in spite of her whoredom. So he went and bought back his wife for fifteen pieces of silver and one and one-half homers of barley, the price of a slave (Hosea 3:1-3). Before God could show His love to man and restore him to Himself He needed to buy man at the slave

market of sin. What a picture of God's marvelous love for and infinite patience with a rebellious race.

The basic idea of the term redemption is twofold. It includes redemption from and redemption to. Man is redeemed from the curse of the law, from Satan and all evil. Man is redeemed not only from the penalty of his transgression, but he is delivered from the transgressions themselves. Man is also redeemed to God and to a new life in Christ. It is to a new freedom in contrast to the old enslavement of the flesh.

We noticed in some of the Old Testament illustrations that those who were redeemed were under special obligation to God. This is certainly no less the case in the present dispensation. Lysias the chief captain in referring to Roman citizenship said, "With a great sum obtained I this freedom." (Acts 22:28) Paul responded to this by saying that he was born free. As it relates to the heavenly citizenship no one is free-born. As Christians we have obtained freedom from the bondage of sin at a tremendous cost. Our freedom cost the very life of our dear Lord. Let us live with a consciousness of and an appreciation for the immeasurable price with which we have been bought.

To the redeemed comes this solemn declaration, "And ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price." In this day of ease and prosperity we need to allow this truth to burn in our hearts. One of the great needs of the church today is that this concept would be clearly seen and believed.

The only proper response to such a wonderful redemption is expressed in the words of the poet, "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!"

Selected from The Eastern Mennonite  
Testimony, June 1986

## **OUR MORAL DEFICIT**

Hebrews 3:13, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."



The United States, once the spiritual leader of the world, has become morally depraved. Like Great Britain before us, we sent missionaries to every continent, spiritual revivals swept our land, and people all over the world were led to Christ. America still sends missionaries all over the globe, yet the best they can offer is not the love of Christ, but social programs and birth control. Planned Parenthood, and other such organizations that once took the moral high ground, now shamelessly offer abortions to all. This country was once a refuge to all those desiring to live according to the dictates of their conscience. Revelation 2:4 says, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." We can see that, spiritually, America has fallen. What it once loved (the things of God), it now hates. What it once hated (evil things), it now loves. The Bible tells us to hold fast to the good, yet there is no room in America for anything but greed.

We find it odd that after the massacre at Littleton, Colorado, where over a dozen souls went into eternity, the authorities thought it prudent to invite clergy in to counsel the bereaved, yet before the massacre religion was "off-limits". There is no room in federal schools for God. If God had not been evicted from the public schools back in the 1960's, perhaps this shooting and others like it may not have happened in the 1990's.

Today's Christianity for the most part is shallow and superficial. It is Christianity in name only. Jesus asked the question, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46) He called the Pharisees, who made a pretense of religion, "...whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones and of all uncleanness." (Matthew 23:27) II Timothy 3:5 calls it, "...a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: of such turn away."

These conditions did not happen overnight. The forces of evil have been chipping away at the Church and its influence for centuries. The gospel, which has not changed since Christ walked upon the earth, has been "socialized." The "social gospel" contains no gospel, but rather it is "helping your neighbor" without sharing the gospel with him. The modern church never mentions the new birth, sin, separation from the things of the world, or the leading of the Holy Spirit. The modern church is afraid of offending those of other

faiths, being under the unscriptural assumption that "all roads lead to God." Most churches today know nothing of lives changed by the Lord Jesus Christ. Sinners in search of a Savior are looking for those who have been changed and who are living a victorious Christian life. The average church today contains very little of this.

Genuine Christianity is Jesus-based, not works-based. The Pharisees had works, but nothing spiritual. Jesus, while on the cross, bowed His head and said, "It is finished." The work of the cross and of the empty tomb paid our sin debt vicariously. We have nothing more to pay. Our works are a result of love to God, not an effort to gain His favor.

Our moral deficit has been caused by a degenerating Christian church, one that has not maintained its influence for good. We see this trend in many ways, but most visibly in our government. Our President has made a mock of sin, yet he has been rebuked by very few. Up until this century our Presidents, for the most part, have been God-fearing men. With the church becoming caught up in the deception of this world, there is no longer a stern rebuke for the actions of our leaders. The scriptures tell us that, "...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." (II Timothy 3:13)

What can we, who claim to be followers of Christ, do to stem this tide of evil? We can continue in the things which we have learned. We can continue to preach and teach the gospel and to exhort and love one another. We can stand fast and not be swayed by winds of doctrine. We can stick with the King James Bible and what it teaches. We can love the sinner but hate the sin. We can, as it says in Jude, "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." (Jude 21-23)

May God's Grace be with you all.

In Christian love,  
Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Rd.  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

## LET US SEEK THE HOLY SPIRIT

The old adage, "You can take a horse to water but you cannot make him drink," is just as true today as it was yesterday. If the horse does not want water his owner cannot make him drink. This came to my mind this morning in my morning worship in Paul's writing to the churches. He had a very keen desire to keep his new converts hungry for the new Gospel that Christ brought to the Gentiles that they not become unconcerned and discouraged and wander away from the truth. Paul visited them. When he could not visit them, he sent another Godly man in his place to keep them encouraged. He also sent letters of encouragement to them. Some of these letters are recorded in the New Testament to encourage us also. I really appreciate Bro. Paul's writings which have helped me to better understand the Scriptures.

In our modern day religion we have become lukewarm, and I dare say cold. The Bible has been added to, subtracted from, and divided in the late translations. Some churches believe some parts of it and delete other parts, and other denominations will dwell on other parts of the scriptures until we find no religious organization that keeps all of the Biblical commandments. Keeping all of the commandments will not mean salvation to us unless we have a desire and an urge to seek God's will and to long for His coming.

We need to desire to spend eternity in that beautiful, beautiful city of gold and pearls, that our Saviour has been busy preparing for us these 2,000 years since He went away. Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither is it possible to imagine how great, beautiful and costly this great city is. We should have a burning love, a longing for, a preparation for an eternity with our crucified Lord and Saviour.

Here the traveling is rough and uphill with Satan constantly trying us in many, many ways and through many people, even family, friends and church people. We must be constantly on our guard or we will find ourselves trapped in Satan's snares.

When we seek the Lord, He will speak to us in a calm and loving way that we know that it is the Holy Spirit speaking to us. If we follow and obey that voice, we will be happy and blessed. He



promises that as we walk with the Lord we should not go ahead or lag behind. The Scriptures will be revealed to us as the Lord sees we can absorb and understand His ways.

I hesitate to write this, but it may help our understanding. Some years ago, in the night, I had a dream or vision as follows. I was standing beside a large, sound oak tree. I was leaning and resting on it. Man had sawed the tree completely off at the butt. The butt of the log lay beside the stump. I was looking up the perfectly straight, live, oak tree, which reached into the Heavens beyond eye sight. The trunk of the tree was a long green log with a slightly worn toe path up the tree as a foot-log across a creek. The tree had many limbs, large and small branches. Some of the limbs were completely rotted away up to the tree trunk, others rotted away and some were just barren twigs or dead leaves. There were no green healthy leaves on the tree. I knew the Lord was showing me something and I prayed the Lord to know the meaning of what I saw. Several days later I got the answer. The tree or trunk was the vine (or Christ) and we are the branches—the different church groups and splits. No green leaves bothered me. Is it possible that no group of people come up to the Bible teaching? The tree reached over a great Abyss or hole in the earth with high jagged rocks part way around it. I could not see down in the hole. I asked the Spirit what was in the hole? He said "The Great Tribulation. You will not see that."

I searched the Bible about a message like this. I read about the vine and the branches. John 15:1-10. Two times I found that Christ was cut off from the earth by man. Isa. 53:8, Dan. 9:26. As I was not shown the great tribulation, neither do I expect to be living here during that time in this human body.

We are living in the time of the end of this age, as was allotted to man from the beginning at the Garden of Eden. I am praying that all of my readers are putting first things first, studying and digging in the Holy Scriptures and following the leading of the Holy Spirit in every thing and applying it to their lives. If we do so, we might meet our Redeemer and loved ones in the great reunion beyond this vale of tears, world without end, without sickness, without Satan to hurt or influence us to sin, and perhaps singing the

song of Moses and the Lamb. The more we dig for Scripture truths, the more we prepare our souls for deeper truths. Then the Scriptures give us more understanding, and leads us like a ladder upward, a step at a time Heavenward. He gives us what we are capable of understanding. It is easy to do if we are willing to and want to receive it. When we rebel, the Spirit discontinues the revelation and the strength to work for Him, who has all things to strengthen and reward us. Nothing is too hard for Him—He gave His life that we might live and serve Him eternally. So search the Scriptures daily with open minds and attentive ears to the Holy Spirit.

Lovingly and prayerfully submitted  
Sister Ruth M. Snyder  
6159 Garrett Hwy  
Oakland, MD 21550

## THE SPIRITUAL STATE OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN

"But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." Mark 10:14-15.

These recorded words of our Lord were spoken when individuals brought their children to Jesus to touch them and the disciples rebuked the people for doing so. The Roman Catholic Church and the Reformers known as Protestants interpreted this passage of Scripture to validate infant baptism. The Baptists, who were later known as Anabaptists, did not understand Scripture in this manner. They suffered severe persecution because they refused to baptize infants and re-baptized those who had experienced infant baptism. The Dunkard Brethren Church came from this heritage.

A study of this subject leaves many questions that only God is able to answer and did not choose to do so in His Holy Word. The early Brethren taught that baptism was the final work of initial salvation. Does this mean that those who have never experienced adult baptism are lost? We could even go a step farther and ask, if those who have not experienced immersion baptism are lost? Even

beyond that is it necessary to be baptized by trine immersion to have true salvation? We are willing to leave this in the hands of God.

Another question that could arise is whether an infant or child who dies remains at this state for all eternity. Those babies lost by a miscarriage or killed by abortion leave, perhaps, an even greater mystery.

We find it interesting that in the passages where Jesus came into contact with children and when He used them as object lessons, He never once mentions the subject of baptism. Furthermore, He states in our opening verses, "for of such is the kingdom of God."

We believe the kingdom of God can refer to two realities. There are those who try to make a distinction between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven. The Bible does not allow for such a distinction but uses both phrases in parallel passages. One of the possible meanings of the kingdom of God is where God dwells. Of course, God is everywhere. But Christ spoke of "Our Father which art in heaven." In this context infants and children would be pure even as Heaven is pure.

Another meaning for the kingdom of God is the Church. We believe, in this context, that this meaning may be the better one. While we believe that infants and children are innocent of sin, they are not without sin. They have inherited the adamic sin of all mankind.

In Ephesians 5:27 we read, "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Is there any living individual who can meet these standards or any individual, besides the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself, who fulfilled them? We seriously doubt that this be so. While it is true that we must strive to meet these standards to reach our goal of Heaven, we do not believe any one of us will reach that mark by ourselves. Rather any holiness we might possess is the Holy Spirit having control of our lives and beyond this allowing Christ to stand in our place. While the blood of Christ is misused by many, who teach that once you are



saved the blood of Christ will cover willful rebellion, we do believe that the blood of Christ is sufficient for all of our sins. As our spiritual ancestors taught, an infant or child is covered by the blood of Christ at birth and up until the day of their reaching the age of accountability.

While the early Brethren did not encourage baptism until an individual reached their late teens or even beyond that, most groups baptize comparatively young. We would not find fault with this practice but we believe many of the young who are baptized are not really aware of what this step in life is about. In many groups, baptism is joining the church and many applicants know little else.

The time may come when this is again a real issue with which we must contend. Let us hold fast to the Faith at all cost. May we strive to be true to our baptismal vows as we serve Jesus Christ by being true to God's Holy Word. Have you been cleansed by the blood of Christ and baptized by trine immersion?

Brother James M. Hite  
816 E. Birch St.  
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

## **BIBLE TEACHING ON NONCONFORMITY**

As Applied to the Christian and Civil Government

Chester K. Lehman

Our Heavenly Citizenship

"My kingdom is not of this world." - Christ.

The fundamental basis of nonconformity as applied to the relation of the Christian to civil government lies in the antagonism between Christ's kingdom and the kingdoms of this world. The conflict between the two is seen in Christ's trial. Jewish and Roman kingdoms came into collision with Christ's kingdom at which time He said, "My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight." Christ's kingdom is heavenly; it partakes of the nature of another world. On the other hand, the kingdoms of this world are worldly and partake of the nature of

this world. On this account we who have been delivered from the power of darkness and translated "into the kingdom of His dear Son" have a heavenly citizenship.

This heavenly citizenship is typified in the Old testament in the separation of Abraham and his posterity from their environment in which they became strangers "in a land not theirs," and also at a later time, when this posterity entered into covenant relation with God whereby they became a "peculiar treasure" unto God, a "kingdom of priests," and a "holy nation."

New Testament revelation caught this typical significance. We will observe the author of Hebrews describing the status of the patriarchs as "strangers and pilgrims on this earth." (Heb. 11:13) They sought a better country, an heavenly one, "a city whose builder and maker is God." In like manner Peter bases a most important admonition with reference to our relation to the world and the powers that be upon the spiritual import of the words, "strangers and pilgrims." (I Pet. 2:11) On the bases of this heavenly citizenship we are merely traveling through this world; our citizenship is not of this world.

#### The Nature of the Kingdom of Which We Are Citizens

This kingdom of which we are citizens is primarily spiritual. This is the import of prophecy concerning it and its description in the New Testament. The psalmist could write, "The septre of thy kingdom is a right septre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hateth iniquity." The Baptist could announce, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." And Christ could declare, "If I cast out devils by the spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come upon you." Thus Christ's kingdom is not a temporal kingdom; He contrasted it with the gates of hell, not with Rome. All this explains the nature of the conflict of Christ with the Pharisees. They looked for a temporal kingdom, but Christ taught that His kingdom was spiritual.

This being true, the way is further paved for understanding the relation of the Christian to civil government. Since he is a citizen of Christ's spiritual kingdom, and this is opposed by the kingdoms of this world, the natural position of the Christian is to be faithful to his kingdom.

## Christ's Kingdom and the Church

The type of this relationship is found in the organization of Israel at Mt. Sinai. Josephus coined the word "theocracy" to describe the nature of Israel's rule. In this the nation of Israel was distinctive; God was their King. The visible body of this kingdom was called the congregation or "church." (Acts 7:38) When this was further modified in the establishment of the Davidic kingdom, a clearer type of the Messianic kingdom was disclosed. David's kingship was mediatorial; that is, he reigned in God's seat. God gave to him the authority which He Himself rightly possessed. In doing, so, however, the outlines of Christ's kingdom as being mediatorial become clear. He also now reigns with supreme authority in mediatorial capacity. Christ said, "All power (authority) is given to me in heaven and in earth," indicating by this His assumption of Messianic kingship. His church, having its origin in the New Covenant, is built upon the firm basis of His Messiahship. Gathering up the lines of thought here presented: just as the "church in the wilderness" was the visible organization of the theocracy and later of the Davidic kingdom, so in fulfillment of the type, Christ's church is the visible organization of His kingdom. In other words, our citizenship is in Christ's kingdom; and since not all men recognize Him as Lord and Christ, an assembly of "called out" ones has been established for the proper association and fellowship of the people of God.

This carries us a step further in understanding our relation to civil government. Ideally, there should be no distinction between church and state. In the perfected eternal kingdom of God it will disappear. But now when the kingdoms of this world stand in opposition to the Lord's anointed, a visible assembly, the church, affords the people of God the needed fellowship and discipline. Were the state Christian, it would be the church; but since it is not Christian, Christ has provided the church for His people. We then as citizens of a kingdom of another world and members of the body of Christ are called out to a life of separation both from the world and the state which it has called into existence for its own control.

## Our Relation to the State

Setting forth our relation to the state, we need to hold clear the



fundamental principles of our being "strangers and pilgrims" in this world. On this account we are not able to assert rights. Studying the case of the apostle Paul, let us note that he appealed to his Roman citizenship. While the actions of an apostle are not infallible, I believe that his example was in harmony with his infallible teaching. Beyond the point of appeal Paul could not go. He with other apostles followed the path of their Lord and died when duty to their higher citizenship conflicted with the state.

In practice, vital problems may indeed arise. Some points are very clear: we should not resist evil, we should not go to law, cases arise when "we ought to obey God rather than men." The fundamental question is this: Does the New Testament set forth our relation to the state as a part of the state in which we participate as citizens, or does it describe our relationship as separate from and of being submissive to it as aliens? In answer let us note the following points.

1. "The powers that be are ordained of God." (Rom. 13:1) This was written by Paul on the eve of a most concerted effort on the part of the government to overthrow the church. How then are we to understand this language? Does it mean that since they are ordained of God the Christian finds a definite duty toward government in such a manner that he should enter into its service as kings, governors, legislators, judges, and voting citizens? Or does Paul mean that this ordination is in God's mind and that the powers that be unconsciously carry out His will? Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Nero, Domitian, Hitler, and Mussolini are raised up by God to perform a work but are not the conscious servants of God. This opens up a wide field for study in which we would need to consider the attitude of such men as Cyrus, Constantine, William of Orange, Washington, and Lincoln, not to speak of many statesmen and citizens, who seem to invoke the guidance of God in their capacity as heads or servants under the government. We should consider also the experiment of Mennonites and Quakers in the colonial history of Pennsylvania and learn how a non-resistant conscience experienced the incongruity of nonresistance and participation in the affairs of state.

After all the question is one of the interpretation of scripture,

although the testimony of Christian experience should be found to confirm that of the Bible. Studying again such scriptures as Luke 20:25; Acts 4:19; 5:28-29; Rom. 13:1-7; I Tim. 2:1-2; Tit. 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-17, the evident sense seems clear: Christians have no part in civil government; their duties are negative, not positive; no instruction is given to Christian emperors, kings, dictators, and presidents as to how they should perform executive functions; Christian judges as to how they should perform judicial functions; or to legislators as to the kind of laws they should enact; or to citizens as to the kind of officials they should elect. While it is recognized that some of these conditions did not obtain when the apostles wrote, absence of any instruction of this kind is strikingly conspicuous, enough to establish the principle that in a real sense Christians do not have a part in the affairs of state.

2. Christians, nevertheless, have a duty to the state. We should render "unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's." (Matt. 22:21)

3. In recognition of our duty to the state we should recognize our higher duty to God. Circumstances may arise when we "ought to obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

4. The power is "the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil." (Rom. 13:4) This duty plainly does not rest upon the Christian.

5. Obedience is required to government "for conscience' sake." (Rom. 13:5)

6. Christians have the obligation to pay tribute and custom to and to fear and honor the "powers that be." (Rom. 13:6-7) This principle came acutely under test during the World War. The problem did not arise with reference to the payment of taxes some of the proceeds of which were definitely used to carry on the war, but with reference to the purchase of Liberty Bonds which was voluntary, the proceeds of which directly supported the war program. Here the nonresistant conscience asserted itself. The former was clearly within the teaching of scripture, but the latter was voluntary and became a measure of one's wartime patriotism. Men who were physically unable on account of the rigors of warfare could

render their bit toward the winning of the war by the purchase of bonds.

7. The view point held so far in this discussion leads logically to the conviction that the Christian's duty to the state does not include the exercise of the franchise or of holding office. Whether or not this is a true interpretation of the sense of scripture is not clear to all. My personal conviction on this point is as follows: I understand that the exercise of the franchise according to the Constitution makes an individual an integral part of the government. It is one and the same in principle for one to vote for president as it is to hold that office. My nonresistant conscience forbids me to hold an office in which I should have military authority such as the Governor and President possess. Since I could not serve in any such capacity, I feel that I have no responsibility to share in the election of such officers.

8. Finally, it is the clear duty of Christians to make "supplication, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (1 Tim. 2:1-2) Here is clear positive duty which should do away with opposition and criticism of the government and her policies. If laws are enacted which do not suit us, or if taxes become excessively high, it is our privilege to submit to them in humility, praising God for a land of liberty of conscience and trusting Him to continue to care for His people.

Selected

## **MARRIAGE**

### **NIESE-KIREEVA**

Brother Bradley Niese, son of David and Sister Carol Niese of Stryker, Ohio was united in marriage with Olga Kireeva, daughter of Alexander and Lidia Kireeva of Russia. The wedding was held November 22, 1998 at the Saint Vladimar Orthodox Church. They are residing at Riveroaks Apt., 855 Valley Circle Drive, #101, Saline, MI 48176



## OBITUARY

### HAROLD W. DENNIS

Bro. Harold W. Dennis of 158 E. Church Street, Stevens, Pennsylvania passed away and went to meet the Lord, June 2, 1999. He was born August 6, 1932. He was 66 years, 9 months and 26 days. He was the son of Elmer R. and Edna M. Dennis.

He was a member of the Conservative Brethren Church, Millback, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. Surviving are his wife Elizabeth (Betty) Dennis; six children, Donna, wife of Norman Burkholder, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Gwen and Sharon Dennis at home, Randy, husband of LuAnn (St. John) Dennis, Newmanstown, Pennsylvania, Jimmy, husband of Kathy (Martin) Dennis, Leola, Pennsylvania, Kevin, husband of Tracey (Endus) Dennis, Ephrata, Pennsylvania; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one brother, Elmer Dennis, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania and one sister, Ruth Good, Mohresville, Pennsylvania.

Services were held June 7, 1999, at the Conservative Baptist Brethren Church, Lititz, Pennsylvania with Elder Dean St. John, Elder David Kegerreis, Elder Dean Kegerreis and Elder Ray Wagner conducting the services. Interment was in Longenecker's Cemetery, Lititz, Pennsylvania.

The family wants to thank all the church family and friends for the many acts of kindness and comfort shown to us during this time. May God's blessings be yours, is our prayer.

The Family

## MEETING NOTICES

July 9-18 - Revival Meeting, Hart, Michigan

July 23-Aug. 1 - Revival Meeting, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

August 8-15 - Revival Meeting, Dallas Center, Iowa

August 13-22 - Revival Meeting, Swallow Falls, Maryland

August 20-29 - Revival Meeting, Englewood, Ohio

September 12-19 - Revival Meeting, Grandview, Missouri

September 12 - Harvest Meeting, Englewood, Ohio

September 19-26 - Revival Meeting, Bethel, Pennsylvania

September 26-October 3 - Revival Meeting, Walnut Grove, MD

### LOVEFEAST NOTICES

July 17 - Hart, Michigan

August 14 - Dallas Center, Iowa

August 21 - Swallow Falls, Maryland

September 18 - Grandview, Missouri

### NEWS ITEMS

#### SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Shrewsbury Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meetings, with Bro. Mark Cordrey from the Pleasant Home Congregation in Modesto, California.

The meetings will be from Friday, July 23, through Sunday, August 1. Pray, come, and be inspired by the messages, and worship the Lord with us.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

#### ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Englewood Congregation has chosen August 20 through 29 for Revival. Brother Wayne Burgess has consented to be God's spokesman to bring "His" Word. May prayer and good attendance make this a great reviving.

If the Lord tarries, Sunday forenoon, September 12, Brother Bob Carpenter will deliver our Harvest Meeting message. Come and add to our blessings.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

#### NOTICE CONCERNING POSTAL SERVICE

Our subscribers who receive their copy without a barcode should

provide our printer with your correct address so it can be barcoded. The barcode will insure quicker delivery and reduce mailing costs.

When moving please inform the printer of your change of address as soon as possible. This will save a considerable amount of extra postage. The address of the printer is Haines Printing Co., 14 E. Main St., North East, PA 16428. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1999**

**August 1 - How Much Is Jesus And One Lost Sheep Worth? Luke 14:25-15:10**

1. What did Jesus mean when He said we must hate our own relatives and even our own life if we want to be His disciple?
2. How do we go about finding the lost sheep?

**August 8 - The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32.**

1. Explain the symbolism in the robe, ring, and shoes put on the prodigal by the father.
2. The father said twice that the prodigal son "was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found." What did he mean?

**August 15 - The Unjust Steward And A Beggar Named Lazarus - Luke 16:1-31**

1. Of what things has our Lord made us stewards?
2. Why did the rich man have respect for Lazarus after death when he did not have any for him while on earth?

**August 22 - Forgiving The Offending Brother And Ten Lepers-Luke 17:1-19.**

1. Explain the connection between repentance and forgiveness.
2. What do you suppose the one leper, who returned to thank Christ, received that the other nine did not?



August 29 - The Hidden Kingdom Waiting To Be Revealed - Luke 17:20-18:8.

1. What did Jesus mean, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation"?
2. Why did Jesus say, "Remember Lot's wife"?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1999**

August 1 - The Transfiguration - Luke 9:28-36, II Pet. 1:16-21.

1. Explain the phrase, "The fashion of His countenance was altered".
2. How is it possible that Moses and Elias actually talked with Jesus on the mountain?

August 8 - Brotherly Love-Deut. 10:17-22, Matt. 22:36-40, John 15:11-21.

1. How are we as Christians, "strangers" on earth, like the children of Israel were "strangers in the land of Egypt"?
2. Explain how to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

August 15 - A Person Of Faith - Luke 7:1-10.

1. How is being under authority an important part of faith?
2. How was the centurion's faith greater than that of those in Israel?

August 22 - What Road Are We On? - Matt. 7:11-21, Heb. 12:12-29.

1. How do we discern the difference between the broad way to destruction and the narrow way to life?
2. How can we know who is a true prophet and who is a false prophet?

August 29 - Our Invitation - Isa. 1:18-20, Matt. 11:27-30, Rev. 22:17-19.

1. How can Jesus give us rest when at the same time He spoke about a yoke and a burden?
2. Who can partake of the water of life?

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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXVII

AUGUST 1999

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## MORNING HYMN

O God! I thank Thee for each night  
Of beauty that Thy hand doth give;  
For sunny skies and air and light;  
O God, I thank Thee that I live!

That life I consecrate to Thee;  
And ever as the day is born,  
On wings of joy my soul would flee  
And thank Thee for another morn;

Another day in which to cast  
Some silent deed of love abroad,  
That, greatening as it journeys past,  
May do some earnest work for God;

Another day to do and dare;  
To tax anew my growing strength;  
To arm my soul with faith and prayer,  
And go reach heaven and Thee at length.

-Caroline Atherton Mason

## JACOB, BETHEL AND PENIEL

Jacob's life is interesting. It is encouraging because he progressed from a crafty schemer into a man of God concerned about his family. It was not an easy change for Jacob. His ability to change can be an encouragement to us. We hope that our end will be of more value in the sight of God than our beginning.

In his youthful years, there was little to suggest that Jacob would ever become a man who would become so highly esteemed. He was born into a godly home. Isaac, Abraham's Promised Son, was never a great public figure, but privately he was a man of God.

Jacob had been a worldly wise trader. He had secured the birthright from Esau for a mess of pottage. He later secured Isaac's blessing through an unscrupulous charade with Rebecca's help. He probably liked the looks of the local girls as much as Esau, but needing to escape Esau's anger and be in his parent's good graces, he consented to travel back to the family's home area to seek a wife.

He set out on his lonely journey to go to the family's ancestral home. He was not only weary from the drudgery of the way, but he was homesick as well. As night came upon him, he was near Luz.

With a stone for a pillow, the ground for his bed and the sky for his blanket, the homesick and weary Jacob had a fitful night of sleep. During that night he had a vision that helped shape his life. He saw a ladder that extended from the earth to heaven. Upon

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## AUGUST 1999

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that ladder were angels going back and forth between heaven and earth. Certainly Jacob could, among other things, gather from this that God would send His angels to minister to Jacob. He would be protected and directed as he journeyed. He would enjoy many blessings beyond the ordinary blessings of life.

After finding Laban's home, he fell in love with Rachel. He was willing to serve long for her. He was willing to overlook the deception of Laban because of his love for Rachel. He prospered while with Laban, through some deception of his own. God used these various means to raise up Jacob to a place of great wealth and standing. Certainly the angels had intervened for him to bring him to this state of affairs.

There finally came the time that Jacob desired to leave Laban before their relationship became any more antagonistic. Jacob began his long journey homeward. His caravan was impressive as he moved his family, livestock and other possessions toward the south country. Such a great caravan would be seen and reported to those who dwelt in the area towards which he was traveling. Among those who took note of his coming was his estranged brother, Esau. Esau, no longer harboring the ill will of the past, traveled to meet Jacob to welcome him home.

Jacob misinterpreted this welcoming party to be Esau's army sent to keep him from his destination. He split his caravan in two, thereby hoping to save some, if one part were attacked. He also sent presents to hopefully mollify Esau's anger. He feared what would happen.

At Peniel, in this troubled state of mind he spent another night that tremendously affected his future life. He spent the night in a wrestling match with an angel. The angel could not prevail until he touched the muscle of Jacob's thigh. Because Jacob had struggled so valiantly, he was accepted by God and given a new name, Israel. Now he was a prince of God.

After this time Jacob lived in peace with Esau, he prospered in his homeland and he showed a greater diligence toward the things of God. He did not live a perfect life for he made mistakes; especially in the partiality he showed toward Joseph. In the end Joseph was restored to him. He lived out his days under the care of Jo-



seph. He was much concerned about his family at the end of his life as shown through the blessings he pronounced upon his sons and grandsons.

What did Bethel and Peniel mean to Jacob? What do they mean to you and me? Bethel was Jacob's first relationship with God. This was like a conversion experience. He did not understand all that was implied by the transaction but he accepted it. He went forth under the blessings of God. Peniel was a deepening of that relationship. Here Jacob made a commitment. He would go forth not only believing and wanting to know God, but also in knowing and serving God.

We need to meet God at both Bethel and Peniel. Hopefully there will not be a great span of time intervening between the two. Hopefully our conversion will shortly be followed by commitment. We need not only the salvation and blessings offered by God, we also need to have a deeper, servant relationship with Him. We need not only to know Him but to share Him with our families, friends and the whosoever of this world.

Have you been to Bethel and Peniel?

M.C.Cook

## **KEEP LOOKING UP**

Acts 1:1-26

Luke gave an ordered account of the life and teachings of Jesus in his gospel. In the Book of Acts he gave an ordered account of the events surrounding the lives of the apostles after Christ's ascension.

Verses 7 and 8 stand out to me. These were among the last words of Jesus before He was taken up into Heaven. The disciples asked Him, "Wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" And Jesus answered, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Aside from knowing that Jesus will one day return to the earth

"in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven," we are not to be very concerned about "the times and seasons." Instead, we are to be wholly taken up with being witnesses of Jesus in our local communities, in our state and nation, and in the entire earth. We are to be greatly concerned about remaining faithful to Jesus Christ and to His Word.

Someday He will return. We do not know when. Truly His second coming is nearer than it ever was before. In our hope and anticipation of His soon return, we are not to lose sight of the mandate that He has given us — that of being witnesses of Him. The passion of winning lost souls for the cause of Jesus Christ and of encouraging other Christians on their pilgrimage should consume us!

Read verses 9 through 12 carefully. This is the account of how Jesus was taken up into Heaven (just three short verses). Many times, the most significant events of history do not really take very many words to describe! For example, "And they crucified Him." "He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight."

The disciples then tarried at Jerusalem, according to the instructions that Jesus gave them, awaiting the event of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. While waiting, and no doubt reviewing the Scriptures and prophecies concerning Jesus, Peter came across the passage in Psalms which describes the betrayer. He discovered that another was to take his place (see Psalms 109:8). And so, after considering the matter, they nominated two brethren who had been with them from the days of John the Baptist. They prayed, and asked God to make the final decision. Then they gave forth their lots, and the lot fell upon Matthias. (There is a wide range of interpretation on exactly what this means. Those gathered could have cast forth their ballots, as we do in our church today. Or, the two nominees could have simply drawn their slips of paper, and the longest one got the office.)

This action by the disciples raises a lot of questions. Did God confirm this choice? Or did God choose the Apostle Paul to fulfill the place of Judas?

**Summary Thought...**Are you anxiously awaiting the return of Jesus Christ? Are you living faithfully to His teachings and being a

witness for Him.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

## **KENYA KNOTES**

### **WATER**

Matthew 10:42

To many of you who will read this article on water will have to admit we take water for granted. It is at our fingertips at all times. Here in Kenya there is a higher respect for water. Many have to go several miles to bring water to their homes, carried in buckets, or five gallon cans on top of their heads. It is used sparingly. We have been working on springs trying to produce as much water as possible, which has proved to be quite a chore. Materials have to be carried up hill for some distance. The officials of the community are grateful for the work being done here. The people are also glad and thankful. We had quite a challenge at the one spring until we had water at the bottom of the line and at the top. Water now flows to both places at the same time.

We do not have a pump for the well at the mission compound. We are hoping to have our pump working by the end of June. This will be a big improvement for drinking water, as we are still using rain water for drinking purposes which we put through a water purifier from Grandview Congregation. THANKS!!

People at our Chepkornerwa Church have to walk several hours to get their water. We have talked about getting a well drilled there. At present our well driller is still waiting for parts for his machine. It is our prayer that all those who benefit from these springs of water will also receive that living water which comes from accepting the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christian love,  
Brother Verling H. Wolfe

## **UNDIVIDED ATTENTION**

I am sure all of you have heard the expression, undivided attention. If you have not, I do not know where you have been be-



cause I believe it is used quite frequently. Well, if anyone wants undivided attention come to Africa, you will find it here. Especially from the little children yelling, "How are you," or "Masungu" which means "white man", to which I reply "Mafrica" or "African", then they really laugh.

When we were working on the springs they would all stand around and watch us work. You cannot imagine how crowded it got sometimes. At times we had to tell them to go home. With all the attention, I can guess how Christ felt while He was on earth as He performed miracles and taught. He had everyone's attention and did not need to ask for it. Wherever He went He was crowded by people wanting to hear His words of wisdom.

I am hoping that the people I meet do not just see me as a white person but that they see Christ in me. All the attention that I am getting should be going to our Father in Heaven. If the people see me living a Christ-like life I want them to "Set your affections on things above not on things on the earth." Col. 3:2. I have not accomplished anything if they do not see Christ in me. Make sure your attention is in the right place, that is my prayer.

Serving Christ in Africa,  
Brother Chad Sweitzer

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Kenya! We arrived safely in Nairobi, July 8. Verling, Fern and Chad along with Hosea and Florence were there to meet us at the airport. That night we stayed at the Mennonite Mission House. The next morning, after breakfast, we started our journey to Kapenguria. We arrived that evening around 8:30, after a few minor problems, including a flat tire, and the fuel pump going bad.

Saturday we went to Kitalie to get the van fixed, and after about three garages, we finally found one with the right tools.

It was encouraging Sunday morning to see a full church and to see their enthusiasm. Brother James preached a message on "Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him." Prov. 26:27. He went over the account of Haman and Mordecai.

We are looking forward to serving the Lord in this part of His vineyard, and learning to know, and work with the people here in Kenya.

In Christian Love,  
Brother Dave, Sister Marilyn,  
Sister Missy and David Johns

Dear Brethren and Sisters,

At the time of this writing we have about one hour air travel time till we reach the end of our homeward flight. The time has gone very swiftly for us. We left with a feeling of sadness. It was not easy to leave those behind whom we learned to love and care for.

The first four weeks were spent mostly on water projects and getting things ready for settlement. Settlement was on June 15. Bro. Hosea is planning to move into the second house on the compound. Much repair had to be done in order to make it livable. We had to repair a badly sagging roof and replace some of the trim roofing. Inside walls had to be scrubbed the same.

We put in some plumbing and electric hookups which we ran from the mission house. It will be a big help to have Bro. Hosea living in the compound to help guard against unwanted guests. The house was broken into twice while we were there. We painted the roof and were in the process of painting the outside when we left.

We planted several orange, avocado, loquat and banana trees.

Bro. David Johns and family arrived and we had one week together with them. May God be with and bless them. Our African Church is praying for someone who can stay with them at least a year. It goes hard for them when they become attached to someone and then they leave. God does answer prayers.

Brother Verling Wolfe

## **A CALL TO COME OVER INTO KENYA AND HELP US!**

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the Gospel. Our Watchword has resulted in an invitation from Theresa Okella of Nairobi, Kenya to preach the Gospel in Africa. Conse-

quently, the Dunkard Brethren Church is established in Kenya with our own Mission Compound recently purchased and located at Kapenguria, Kenya. Brother and Sister David Johns and children, Melissa and David are presently serving as our missionaries. We are in need of successors for them by the middle of October 1999.

If you are interested in a year or more service for the Lord in Kenya or know of established members of the Church who may be qualified to go, please let us know. "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." Prov. 11:30. The time is short: Come over to Kenya and help us.

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## THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? To get a chicken you need an egg, and to get an egg you need a chicken. So which came first? Where do you put your faith?

Genesis 1:20-23, "And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind; and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let the fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day."

On the fifth day God created the chicken. Yet the question is still asked even in jest. What other things do we question that God already put in order?

Which comes first? Overcoming all our sinful habits or accepting Jesus as our Savior? Which comes first? Teaching all the rules of the church or saving the soul? Which comes first? Conviction of the Holy Spirit or joining the Church?



Each person needs the help of Jesus to overcome sin, no matter what the habit. It takes a miracle to overcome smoking or drinking or any other habit. So to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior would be first.

I Cor. 2:1-2, "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." What is the first thing Paul was teaching here? Rules of the church or the story of salvation? Paul said he made an effort not to teach anything but Jesus Christ and Him crucified. After a person accepts Jesus they will be ready to understand, with the help of the Holy Spirit, why we do what we do in our denomination. We build on the Rock of Jesus Christ; if we build on anything else it will fall. The best foundation we can lay is what was already laid. A good understanding of God's grace and salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ is first and foremost. The Rock of Jesus Christ is truly a stumbling block if we do not build on it first. It is amazing to see a life change when the understanding of God's grace takes hold. Praise God!

Who helps with our understanding? Matt. 16:15-17, "He saith unto them. But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." I Cor. 2:9-10, "But it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

We can teach until we are blue in the face, but understanding will not come until the Holy Spirit reveals it or the one learning listens to the Holy Spirit. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we must show much patience to a new believer and help him understand God's Word.

Learning to live the Christian life is like learning to drive a car. You do not just put someone in a car and tell them to just keep the car between the ditches. No, we tell them what each part of the

vehicle is for and how to use it. Next we take the time to drive them around, showing how each part works, then we move over to the passenger seat, say a prayer and give them control of the vehicle. This is the time to show our patience, now that they have taken control of the car. Do you know of anyone who was perfect the first time? Many mistakes are made, and that's okay. It's learning time. Some of the mistakes may be illegal or leave a dent in the car. Do we just give up, or do we offer more time to train and show the way of the Lord? Each person is different, and each person learns at a different speed. Some take more time, and some need an old car to learn with. It takes time to teach, no matter what the subject. I know the mixed feelings when you climb out of the car and turn the controls over for that solo ride. That time will come and needs to come. We will not be around all the time, for the time is coming when we each must answer to God for all the things we have done and why. Praise God, for when we accept Jesus all our sins are washed away!

How many of you, after going on a long trip become tired? Wanting to push on, you turn the driving over to someone else. Do you take a nap, or do you wake up and find it hard to sleep because someone else is driving and you are not in control? How much are we the same with those around us spiritually? Just as those riding with us are able drivers, so are those around us able to be an active part of the Church of Jesus Christ. Who is leading? Jesus or you?

What active part do we have for those around us in the body of Christ? Prayer and more prayer, fellowship one on one with times of encouragement as shown in Matthew 18, and more prayer. God bless you.

Love in Jesus Christ,  
Brother Roy Litfin

## ILLUSIONS

A woman steps into a box. She lies down with her head sticking out one side of the box and her feet sticking out the other side. The "magician" takes his saw and "cuts" her in two pieces. Then he pushes the box back together and she climbs out of the box in

one piece. The highway appears wet ahead of you on a bright sunny day. As you approach the "water" it disappears. These are only illusions. The definition of illusion is an appearance that is not real, one that is misleading, a false impression or perception.

A Christian life can be only an illusion. We may try to "cut" ourselves in two, being one person part of the time and another person part of the time. We may not actually be what we appear to be to others. We can be one person with other Christians, but when we are alone, or with non-Christians, we are very different. Our old man seems to be in control. "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." James 1:8.

The 12th chapter of Romans encourages us to be genuine Christians. Our life should be a reflection of the purity of Christ. A life may look like shimmering water, reflecting God and His ways. But when someone gets too close, the shimmering reflection vanishes and what is underneath is revealed for what it really is, a disappointing illusion. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:1-2.

Do we let the Spirit guide us into all truth or do we feel we can do what we want to do, regardless of what the Bible says and what the Church teaches? Can we feel compelled to be engaged in the things that the world does and still feel no shame, no guilt at our actions? "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15.

Love for the Brethren should not be a pretense. We should always love others more than ourselves. "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." John 13:34. "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." I Peter 2:17. "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" I John 4:20.



Do people around us see us as pretenders? As hypocritical? Do we display a Godly way of life for all to see and even when no one sees? Remember, God always sees. Our life should be righteous, without the ways of the world just under the surface waiting for the chance to erupt. "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness." I Cor. 3:18-19.

We can be a great disappointment to others in the faith. They may see us as sincere, committed souls, walking with the Lord and serving Him in righteousness. Then our old man surfaces and they see us as we really are, only a surface Christian. How disappointing! How disheartening! How discouraging! "And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believeth in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea." Mark 9:42.

If that is so discouraging to others, what must it be to God who sent His only Son to die for our sins that we might have everlasting life? To be forever with the Lord is our goal. The cost is never too great. Let us all be genuine Christians, loving and following God, and loving and serving others.

Sister Jolene Andrews

## AN INTERVIEW

With my newly acquired title as a journalist, I decided to strike a high note.

"Come in," God said to me, "So, you would like to interview Me?"

"If you have the time," I said.

God smiled at me and said: "My time is called eternity and is enough to do everything; what questions do you have in mind to ask me?"

"None that are new to you. What's the one thing that surprises you most about humanity?"

God answered: "That they get bored of being children, are in a rush to grow up, and then long to be children again.

That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health.

That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live neither for the present nor the future.

That they live as if they will never die, and they die as if they had never lived..."

We were silent. After a long period, I said, "May I ask you another question?"

God replied with a smile.

"What would you ask your children to do for the New Year?"

"To learn that great dreams do not require great wings, but a landing gear to achieve.

To learn that they cannot make anyone love them. What they can do is to let themselves be loved.

To learn that it takes years to build trust, and a few seconds to destroy it.

To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in persons we love, and that it takes many years to heal them.

To learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others, but that they forgive themselves.

To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness.

To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others. There will be others better or worse than they are.

To learn that money can buy everything but happiness.

To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most worldly goods, but is one who needs them the least.

To learn that what is most valuable is not what they have in their lives, but who they have in their lives.

To learn that true friends are scarce, he/she who has found one has found a true treasure.

To learn that they should control their attitudes, otherwise their attitudes will control them.

To learn that there are persons who love them dearly, but simply do not know how to show their feelings.

To learn that while at times they may be entitled to be upset, that does not give them the right to upset those around them.

To learn that they are masters of what they keep to themselves and slaves of what they say.

To learn that they should reap what they plant, if they plant gossip they will harvest intrigues, if they plant love they will harvest happiness.

To learn that true happiness is not to achieve their goals, but to learn to be satisfied with what they already achieved.

To learn that happiness is a decision. They decide to be happy with what they are and have, or die from envy and jealousy of what they lack.

To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see something totally different.

To learn that those who are honest with themselves without considering the consequences go far in life.

To learn that even though they may think they have nothing to give, when a friend cries with them, they find the strength to appease the pain.

To learn that by trying to hold on to loved ones, they very quickly push them away; and by letting go of those they love, they will be side by side forever.

To learn that even though the word "love" has many different meanings, it loses value when it is overstated.

To learn that they can never do something extraordinary for Me to love them; I simply do.

To learn that the shortest distance they could be from Me is the distance of a prayer."

Anonymous

Selected by Brother Gordon Smith



## SHORT COMINGS OF KING JAMES

Why would anyone want to read or study a document that was written in an archaic language? The Authorized King James Version is written in English, but many words have different meanings and other words we do not use at all any more and the words that mean what we think they should, are arranged in a confusing order. There are many good translations in modern English, using newly found manuscripts that make God's Word easy to understand. Is the King James still a useful version?

What are some of the major stumbling blocks between God and man today? I find two. Man has enough toys that he does not need God and; he sees no reason to believe that God's Word is truth. Modern translations of the Bible have gone a long way to shoot fiery darts of doubt about the reliability of scripture. How? The easiest place to find one of these darts is at the end of the gospel of Mark. This is a short quotation from the revised standard version note at the end of Mark, "Some of most ancient authorities bring the book to a close at the end of verse 8." It continues to detail five different endings for the book of Mark. Sounds like a "choose your own ending" book to me. All versions except the King James have some note or indication that there are different endings to this book. Which one is correct? What other places in scripture is the content in debate? How do we know that any of the Bible is true and not open to change according to the whim of man? What a fiery dart of doubt this is!

In brief, this is how the trouble began. At the time of Christ, it was understood which writings were holy scripture and which were not. What we know as the Old Testament was considered the holy scripture and nothing else. After the books of the first century concerning Christ were written, it was also then understood which books were the inspired Word of God and which were not. These we know as the New Testament. Many men wanted to change the scripture to fit their own end and wrote manuscripts accordingly. Through the centuries devoted scribes diligently copied the scriptures. They were continually checked for accuracy. When a manuscript had been thoroughly verified it was then considered holy scripture. When a manuscript was found to be old, damaged, or having

error it was discarded or burned. That is why there are not many old manuscripts. They were thought to be too easily mistakenly read or copied. The body of Greek texts were known as the "textus receptus." There are hundreds of copies of the Textus Receptus, few of which are very old because the scribes discarded old copies, so as not to make copying errors from old, hard to read manuscripts. Modern scholars seeking ancient manuscripts did indeed find some older than the Texts Receipts and assumed them to be more accurate simply because they were older. Why were they different? Did someone deliberately change the text or did the scribes make cumulative errors through the centuries? Where did they find them? They were found with other manuscripts in the "to be burned" pile. All versions except the King James have been written in the light of these other manuscripts. Some men have estimated that the Greek Textus Receptus has been altered in six thousand places. I have a list of two hundred points of omission of words and verses. This is the short version of a story that requires much study and digging.

The Authorized King James Version does not have any of these omissions, notes, or brackets. It does place in italics words not in the original tongues that are added to make more sense in English. A concordance and English, Greek and Hebrew dictionaries can go a long way to shed light on scripture. When studying the Bible in a group, using only one version helps to focus our attention on the Word and not on the version. If you still find old English text overpowering, other versions can be helpful for home study if you carefully keep in mind the source of the version. It may be true that modern scholars have insights the King James translators did not but we need to be very careful about changes in meaning we may find in other versions.

In 1998 the Dunkard Brethren Church adopted as polity the following statement: "We believe the Bible is God's Holy Word by which we understand the will and grace of God. To aid in Scripture memorization among our members and children, to help avoid confusion, and to promote sound doctrine in our services, the Authorized King James version of the Bible should be used in our Sunday school, Bible study, and Church services, except where a language other than English is necessary." If this is indeed what we

say and believe then we ought to practice it as well. I hope that the thoughts expressed in this article serve to assist you in your consideration of the many versions of the Bible available today.

Yes, the authorized version may be difficult at first, but it becomes easier with time. Other versions are easier to read but they are based on texts that are of questionable origin. Above all, if the Holy Spirit does not lead you, if you are not willing to follow Him, if you are not willing to change, you will not understand the truth you are reading and may even be driven from it.

James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

I Cor. 2:14, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can we know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Heb. 4:12, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

May the Holy Spirit guide you as you study God's Word.

God's Peace,  
Brother Tim Scofield

## **THE PERFECT CHURCH**

Colossians 1:28, "...that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

Matthew 5:48, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Many in this day and age are searching for the perfect church. People will travel hundreds, even thousands, of miles to find a fellowship that they feel fulfills the scriptures.

We have found that the perfect church is one that will have



certain Biblical characteristics. Its members have asked Jesus Christ; the Son of God, to forgive them of their sins and come into their hearts by faith. They have followed Him into the flowing stream to be baptized, and they seek to live lives of obedience to His will.

Members of the perfect church are filled with the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures tell us, "...how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" Luke 11:13. Members seek to live a life of simplicity, modesty, and nonconformity that pleases God. Their leaders are not dictators, as I Peter 5:3 says, "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." When disputes arise, the instruction of Matthew 18 is used to bring peace. Members of the perfect church realize that they are building Christ's Kingdom, and, except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it. Decisions are made by diligently seeking God's will and by searching the scriptures, not by deciding amongst ourselves and then asking God to bless OUR decision.

Members of God's elect do not fall under the influence of gossip, but realize that in the mouths of two or three witnesses every word shall be established. They do not rely on hearsay, but follow the Biblical admonition to "come and see." (John 1:39, John 1:46, John 4:29).

In God's church there is love and harmony. James 5:9 says, "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door." Members of God's church submit themselves one to another in order that God may be glorified. They realize that none can be won to Christ when there is conflict between members. The church that emerged on the day of Pentecost was "in one accord." Thousands were saved because the church tarried until they were endued with power from on high. Likewise, those who were filled with the Holy Spirit will display the fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.

Members of the perfect church have a genuine love for the souls of mankind and seek to show others the way of salvation. They strive to live an exemplary life not only to please God, but to

show others that they have been with Jesus.

Whereas we cannot point you to a particular group or congregation and say, "they are perfect," we can show you that the scripture says we must strive for perfection in our walk with God and our relationships with others. We cannot do less, because James 4:17 says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

We covet your prayers and correspondence,  
Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Rd.  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

### **DIMINISH NOT A WORD**

"Thus saith the Lord; Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the Lord's house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word." Jeremiah 26:2.

"Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness." Luke 11:35.

The result of Jeremiah being faithful to the command of the Lord given in our opening verse is related in verse 8 of this chapter. "Now it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak unto all the people that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, Thou shalt surely die." Many times being true to the whole counsel of God will bring about an adverse reaction. Many of those in leadership positions may oppose you. Many of your brothers and sisters in the Lord may reject you. But God will bless you for your faithfulness unto Him.

Our Lord gave a warning that what we think is light may very well be darkness. Before we consider ourselves to be "Jeremiahs" and cause chaos within the family of God we should be sure what we are promoting is Scriptural and not some personnel tangent.

Rather than heeding the commandment to diminish not a word some choose to ignore Scripture. If we accept the ever growing

popular teaching that the truths of God's Word are not applicable for today we will have no difficulty ignoring those portions of Holy Scripture that we do not want to obey.

Then we have those who distort Scripture. The cults of our day are growing at an alarming rate. False teachings abound in groups that claim to be Bible believing Christians.

There appears to be more and more within church leadership who refuse to apply Scripture to daily life. Many are preaching a mixed message. It is a real dilemma to preaching a need to follow the Word of God on one hand while calling application of this preaching, legalism on the other hand.!

It is popular today to preach and teach in generalities rather than specifics. Are we, in fact, diminishing the Word of God by so doing? We consider the teaching that we can not oppose an evil deed or support a good practice unless it is directly mentioned in the Word of God to be a dangerous teaching. While common sense and a willingness to be tolerant in this area should be applied, there is enough teaching given in the Word of God to declare some actions to be sinful and others to be worthy of practicing.

It is needful to reach the lost with the message of salvation. It is never right to soften the message in order to win more converts. We might fill our pews to capacity and overflowing by telling those who attend that a one time commitment or born again experience will guarantee them a home in Heaven. That is diminishing the Word of God. You will be popular with the masses if you tell them a Christian can wear jewelry with God's approval but that is diminishing the Word of God. Refuse to rebuke the women for cutting their hair and the men for wearing long hair and you will be considered a nice guy. This is diminishing the Word of God. Tell the people that the prayer veil was either a practice in the time of Paul, one of Paul's hang ups or only practiced in the one locality where it is recorded in Holy Scripture and you will get a vote of confidence from the majority of modern Christianity. In doing so, you will diminish the Word of God.

While it is important to rightly divide the Word of God and recognize that much of the Old Testament is not for the Church, we can not diminish the Word of God by refusing to recognize the Old



Testament as our schoolmaster. To substitute theistic evolution or the gap theory for a literal understanding of the Creation account is to diminish the Word of God.

May it be our desire to be bold and diminish not a word of Holy Scripture. May we desire that the Holy Spirit give us the strength to apply it to our daily life.

Brother James M. Hite  
816 E. Birch St.  
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

### **NOBODY'S FRIEND**

My name is gossip. I have no respect for justice.

I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives.

I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age.

The more I am quoted, the more I am believed.

My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no name and no face.

To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become.

I am nobody's friend.

Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same.

I topple governments and wreck marriages.

I ruin careers and cause sleepless nights, heartaches and indigestion.

I make innocent people cry in their pillows.

Even my name hisses. I am called Gossip.

I make headlines and headaches.

Before you repeat a story, ask yourself.

Is it true? Is it harmless? Is it necessary?

If it isn't, don't repeat it.

Selected

## OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

Flowers for the Living

J. H. Moore

I once stood by a costly casket. It contained all that was mortal of a faithful wife. Like other girls she came into the world and grew to womanhood. Her environments were pleasant, and she knew much of the real enjoyments pertaining to the springtime of life. She was not only a lover of the beautiful, but among the young she was regarded as the most charming of women. But few sorrows crossed her path. She knew the world only to love it.

But there came a day when she stood by the side of a young man, who had won her heart, and listened to the man of God, who in solemn tones pronounced them one. Years came and went. A few children called her mother and for them she gave her life as well as her charms. In time the well known marks of care sat heavily upon her face. One seeing her near the autumn of life would never have imagined that she was at one time considered more lovely than the rose of Sharon. Her beauty had faded, and the earnest look of a busy life marked every lineament of the face that could have served the most gifted artist as a model.

Her love for flowers never left her, and so she filled her windows and a part of her yard with them. Her children and her neighbors also admired her flowers. The husband was a busy man. He loved his wife in a matter-of-fact way. They commenced their struggles with the busy world very early in life, and had long since taken not a few things, relating to love and affection, for granted. When I stood by the casket it was almost covered with the most lovely of flowers. They were procured in a large city, and cost twenty or more dollars. The good woman had closed her eyes in death a few days before, but in all her life she had probably never seen flowers so lovely as those placed upon her casket in the presence of the admiring hundreds. I thought the people that day paid more attention to the flowers than to the sermon or the prayers. To them the flowers seemed a wonderful token of great affection.

Well, I fell to thinking, and wondered why people wait until their loved ones are dead before they think of flowers. How much better it would have been, for this hard-working wife, if some of that money

had been spent for flowers while she was living! Perhaps the husband had never thought of purchasing a rose or carnation for his most devoted companion. He could not see what good it would do, and then, of course, he did not have the money to spare. But as soon as she was dead, and could no more appreciate a token of love, he had plenty of money to give, in order to make a display before the world.

It is said that one flower in the sick room is worth a whole bouquet at a funeral. Why do not people think of this, and give their flowers when they can be appreciated! A rose, costing only a nickel, will do the sick wife a thousand times more good than a wreath costing five dollars will do on the closed coffin. If a husband has money to spend for the finest flowers that grow, why not purchase some for the loved one while she can enjoy them!

For my part, I would like to see a change. I prefer to see the flowers sent to the sick room, but omitted at the funeral. If any of your friends are sick, send them a flower. If one is sent every day or two it will be only the better. At the funeral your flowers will do no good. In heaven you will not receive a blessing for them, but for every flower you place in the sick room, or in the hands of a loved one, you shall not fail to receive a reward. God did not make the flowers for the dead, he made them for the living. Then let the living have them when they will do their hearts good.

## **CHILDREN'S PAGE**

### **ONE THANKFUL LITTLE BOY**

or

### **"WHERE ARE THE NINE?"**

Frank ran down the street where the boys were playing. He wanted to enter their play and enjoy their fun. The boys were always glad to have Frank play with them, for he had a way about him that kept the lads good-natured. There are boys who can spoil any fun by their actions, but Frank added to the fun.

"I'm glad you came over," Fred told him. "Now we will have just that much more fun."

A few minutes later Fred's mother called to him.



"Here are some warm cookies for the boys," she said. "I know they will find a place for them."

With whoops and yells the boys raced for the porch, and eager hands carried the cookies from the pan to hungry mouths.

There were two cookies for each. Frank enjoyed his cookies along with the others. As soon as they swallowed the last crumb they went back to their play.

The next Sunday Frank was up early to get ready for the Sunday School. The lesson was very interesting.

"Boys," the teacher said, "It is so easy to forget things which seem of small importance. We have just read how Jesus entered a certain village, and ten men who were lepers called to him, asking Jesus to have mercy on them. Seeing them, Jesus told them to go show themselves to the Jewish priests, and as they obeyed Him they were cleansed. When they saw they were healed, they turned back and thanked Jesus—"

"No," Frank interrupted. "Only one of them thanked Jesus."

"And who was he?" the teacher asked.

"A Samaritan," Frank replied.

"And nine of them went on their way without thanking Christ at all," the teacher went on with the story. "What do you think of those men?"

"They were very ungrateful," Frank said. "They should have been thankful enough to say something about it."

"You are right. Gratitude is something all should have, but with many folks, it is something they lack. We don't find time to thank folks for the things they do for us. We are just like the nine lepers. We take what others do for us and say nothing about it.

"Do we thank God for what He has done for us? The food we eat, the air we breath, the blessings He gives, the salvation we have—are we daily thanking Him for those things?"

Frank thought about those things as he walked slowly home. Hereafter he would try to be more careful about thanking people. At just that moment he looked down the street and saw Fred's

mother going home from church. Those cookies! That was the first thought. How good they had been. And then he felt ashamed of himself, for he had eaten them and never thanked the lady for them! Running as hard as he could, he reached Fred's house just as Fred's mother was going up the steps.

"Hello, Frank," she said in a kindly voice, "Why have you been running?"

"To thank you for those cookies you gave us yesterday," he replied. "They were good, and I liked them very much. I know the other boys liked them as much as I did."

"I'm glad they did," she replied. "I was fearful they didn't like them, for you are the only one to thank me."

Boys and girls, let us thank God for Jesus Christ and all you have through Him and don't forget to thank your parents, friends, and relatives for the things they do for you, and the things they give you.

Selected from a  
Pilgrim Tract Society tract

## **MEETING NOTICES**

August 8-15 - Revival Meeting, Dallas Center, Iowa

August 13-22 - Revival Meeting, Swallow Falls, Maryland

August 20-29 - Revival Meeting, Englewood, Ohio

August 29-September 5 - Revival Meeting, Shrewsbury, PA

August 29-September 5 - Revival Meeting, McClave, Colorado

September 12-19 - Revival Meeting, Grandview, Missouri

September 12 - Harvest Meeting, Englewood, Ohio

September 19-26 - Revival Meeting, Bethel, Pennsylvania

September 26-October 3 - Revival Meeting, Walnut Grove, MD

October 3-10 - Revival Meeting, Plevna, Indiana

October 8-17 - Revival Meeting, Lititz, Pennsylvania

October 13-17 - Revival Meeting, Dayton, Virginia

### LOVEFEAST NOTICES

August 14 - Dallas Center, Iowa  
August 21 - Swallow Falls, Maryland  
September 18 - Grandview, Missouri  
October 3 - Walnut Grove, Maryland  
October 9 - Plevna, Indiana  
October 16 - Dayton, Virginia  
October 23 - Englewood, Ohio  
October 31 - Bethel, Pennsylvania

### NEWS ITEMS

#### SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation is looking forward to their revival meetings to be held August 29 through September 5, 1999, the Lord Willing. Bro. Mark Cordrey of the Pleasant Home Congregation in Modesto, California will be the evangelist.

Please plan to attend if possible. Please pray for these meetings.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

#### MCCLAVE, COLORADO

The McClave Congregation Revival is scheduled for August 29 through September 5, Lord willing, with Bro. Fred Pifer from Iowa. We look forward to these meetings and pray for God's Spirit to reveal our hearts and fill us with a deeper love and commitment. We welcome you to join us as we worship, learn, and grow in Him.

Sister Arlene Stamy, Cor.

#### BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation plans to have fall Revivals, September 19 through 26. We are looking forward to spirit filled messages from Bro. Dennis St. John. If you cannot come, pray that the will of the Lord be done in each of our lives.

Sister Fern Wolfe, Cor.



**BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Bethel Congregation invites you to our Seventh Annual Benefit/Consignment auction, on Saturday, September 11, at 9:00 A.M. All proceeds go to the daily operation of our church school.

This is the twentieth year that our school has been open. We have six full time teachers and seventy-seven students.

Please come for an enjoyable day of fellowship and good food.

Bethel Dunkard Brethren School Board

**THANK YOU**

Dear Brethren and Sisters,

I am writing for my brother, Earl Silknitter, to thank each and every one of you that sent him cards and remembered him in your prayers. Especially, a special thanks to Brother William and Sister Alice Heisey for getting the word out. They have been so kind to us and have shown so much concern. A special thanks to Brother David Skiles. The card he sent made Earl happy when he mentioned about Mother and Dad and Earl being down to the Mission years ago in a Volkswagen van.

Earl cannot walk, except a little with a walker. He does get around in the nursing home in a wheel chair. He was very "low" for a while. Your prayers have been answered. If you would have seen him before and now, you would know what I mean. We still need your prayers. Please continue to remember us.

Please send any correspondence to Pauline Brainard, 2785 East Nimishillen Church Street, Canton, OH 44721-1049.

Again we wish you God's richest blessings. Love and prayers.

Bro. Earl Silknitter and Sister Pauline Brainard

**SOME THOUGHTS OF AN ELDER BROTHER**

Since having a stroke four years ago, I am not able to be as active as in former days. My mind has been drawn to some of the events of the past as I have been reading some of the books of remembrances that were given me a number of years ago. I have enjoyed reading the messages written by the various members. Some of these dear ones have already passed from this life. These

books are well worth reading again and again. I want to thank those who wrote in these books, although it was several years ago.

Reading these messages have caused me to think back on many of my Church memories. I know that my life is almost over. God gave me a good life to live. It is not that I did not make mistakes. I know that the mistakes of my life have been many, but I hope that God has forgiven me.

I love the Church. I joined at fourteen. I was put in as a deacon at twenty-one. I was a preacher at twenty-five and an Elder at thirty-five. I was able to get over the Brotherhood quite abit and learned to know a few people..

God has given us a wonderful family. I believe that the Bible means just what it says. "Train up a child in the way it shall go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

I am sorry to say there is too much difference between what we are and what we ought to be.

Brethren pray for us

May God bless and keep you is our prayer.

Brother James Kegerreis

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1999**

September 5 - Barriers And Bridges To Following Christ - Luke 18:9-34.

1. How is trusting in ourselves that we are righteous a barrier to following Christ?
2. How is receiving the Kingdom of God as a little child a bridge to following Christ?

September 12 - A Blind Man And A Tax Collector Gain Their Sight - Luke 18:35-19:10.

1. To what did Jesus attribute the blind man receiving his sight?
2. In what way did Zacchaeus, the tax collector, also receive sight?

September 19 - Ten Minas And Jesus Enters Jerusalem - Luke 19:11-40.

1. What are you doing with the pound the Lord has given to you?
2. How must we today allow Jesus to enter our hearts as "The King that cometh in the name of the Lord"?

September 26 - Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem; Then Confronts Its Powers - Luke 19:41-20:19.

1. Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?
2. How did Jesus confront the religious powers that did their best to control Jerusalem?

### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1999**

September 5 - A Goodly Pearl - Matt. 13:44-46, Col. 2:6-10, Mal. 3:7.

1. What is the "Pearl of Great Price" we all need to buy?
2. How can we be one of the Lord's "Jewels"?

September 12 - Our Confession - Matt. 16:15-28.

1. How do we personally answer the question of Jesus, "Whom say ye that I am"?
2. How can we discern between "the things that be of God" and "those that be of men"?

September 19 - Our Mercy Showing - Matt. 18:21-35.

1. How should the mercy we show to our brother compare to the mercy God has shown to us?
2. How will our Heavenly Father deal with us if we refuse to forgive our fellowman in our heart?

September 26 - The Two Sons - Matt. 21:23-32.

1. Explain the importance of repentance for what we have done wrong.
2. What determines whether or not we have been obedient?



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# BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## NOW I RESOLVE WITH ALL MY HEART

Now I resolve with all my heart.  
With all my pow'rs to serve the Lord;  
Nor from his precepts e'er depart,  
Whose service is a rich reward.

O be his service all my joy!  
Around let my example shine,  
Till others love the blest employ,  
And join in labors so divine.

Be this the purpose of my soul,  
My solemn, my determined choice,  
To yield to his supreme control,  
And in his kind commands rejoice.

O may I never faint nor tire,  
Nor, wand'ring, leave his sacred ways;  
Great God, accept my soul's desire,  
And give me strength to live thy praise.

-Anne Steele



## THE INTEGRITY OF JOB

Job was well situated. His family was large and orderly. His various flocks and herds represented great wealth. He was in favor with God and man.

Suddenly, without warning all of this changed. His herds and flocks were taken from him. His family was taken from him. All was gone. How would he react?

That was the question that had arisen between God and Satan. Satan had contended that if Job lost his possessions he would be willing to curse God. God had contended that Job would remain faithful. In this first round, God had been right in his assessment of Job. Job was saddened by his losses, yet he would not condemn God for their loss.

Satan came again before God. God reminded him of Job's integrity. Satan's reply was that Job would still curse God if his body were touched. God again contended that even if his body were touched that Job would retain his integrity. Satan was given permission to touch Job's body, but could not take his life. This is another sign that although Satan is powerful, God is even more powerful. Satan can not go beyond the limits set by God.

Satan did touch Job's body. He brought painful, uncomfortable boils upon his whole body from head to foot. Now the test began. Would Job being willing to curse God because of his circumstances?

Even Job's wife encouraged him to curse God and die, but he

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was unwilling to give up his integrity. Although such a response would have been understandable, Job would not blame God. Although Job did not know, what we know from reading of the two encounters of Satan with God, he continued to worship God.

Job's supposed friends came to comfort him after he had lost all. They proved to be very poor comforters. Looking at outward signs they actually accused Job of sin. Their view was that God granted temporal blessings as a reward for faithfulness. They were sure Job had sinned greatly to cause God to bring such calamity upon him. Job continued to defend himself against their charges although he could not understand why he had been made to suffer.

He was determined to keep his integrity (Job 27:5b). Although faced with death he would not yield his integrity. He would continue to worship God and believe that God knew the best for him. Job's patience and integrity were rewarded in the end. Although vindicated, he did learn a lesson concerning forgiveness. He was rewarded by the double restoration of his wealth, family, and position.

Integrity is doing the right thing, even when it is not the popular course to follow. Job continued in his usual way although his wife and friends would have dissuaded him from it. We have similar challenges as we live in a world that is not a friend to righteousness. We must make a definite choice to do that which is right, rather than what is expedient. Many around us will attempt to sidetrack us from the way of righteousness. They will say that no one knows or that it does not really matter or that everyone is doing it. The righteous will not be dissuaded from their course.

Just as Job was mindful of God's concern for him, so we need to be mindful that although others do not support our course, God still is interested in our choices. He still sets the standard for our lives.

In our communities, we want to be known as a people of integrity. However, it is more important that we have integrity than just a good reputation. Integrity is true righteousness, not just the opinion that others hold concerning us. Integrity involves what we do when no one else knows what we are doing. Will we do the right thing although there is no one else to see us doing it? Or will we

take advantage of the situation to do what we really want to do?

Every day offers us many opportunities to prove our integrity. There are situations that arise at work, school, recreation and home that challenge our integrity. How will we respond to these situations? We usually are not placed in situations as trying as Job's. The way we handle the situations we are placed in, will determine how well we would handle the tougher situations like Job's. Each time we successfully stand for right, we are strengthened for tougher challenges. Every time we fail to maintain our integrity, it becomes easier to give into sin in the future. Job did not suddenly develop integrity when this situation came upon him. He had lived a life of integrity before that. He was prepared and strengthened to do right.

You may marvel at the patience and integrity of Job. How would you handle the situations that were his to handle? Hopefully, you have built a life of integrity as the bedrock foundation of your life.

M.C.Cook

## THE FILLING OF THE HOLY GHOST

Acts 2:1-36

The filling with the Holy Ghost had been prophesied by Jesus. He had told His disciples to tarry at Jerusalem until this event took place. How exciting it must have been to have experienced this event!

While this was a one-time event — and was the birth of the Church as we know it today, we as individual believers are instructed to be filled with the Spirit. One of the requirements of this to happen is listed in the first verse. "They were all with one accord in one place." Verse 14 of chapter 1 contains the same thought: "These all continued **with one accord** in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."

The early believers and disciples of Jesus had one mind, one purpose, and one desire. At this time they were awaiting the promise of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Then their purpose was to obey the command of Jesus to take the Gospel message to all the world.



It is so easy to become sidetracked by all the side-issues that we become divided, and lose the status of being of one mind! We need to carefully guard against allowing Satan to distract us into majoring on the minors, and minoring on the majors.

The miracle of speaking in tongues is like a reversal of God's judgment on human beings at the tower of Babel in Genesis 11. There, men were separated because God caused them to speak in different languages, and they could not understand one another. Here, devout men out of every nation under heaven were united under a very special outpouring of the Holy Spirit. While they could all speak Greek or Hebrew, yet they all heard the message of the Gospel ("wonderful works of God") in their own native languages. And this was being done by unlearned Galileans!

Next comes Peter's great sermon on the Day of Pentecost. Read over it carefully. I marvel how God changed this rough, crude fisherman into an eloquent speaker of the Gospel! We can know of a surety that Peter and the rest of the Disciples now clearly understood all the events surrounding the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. After the filling of the Holy Ghost, they were ready to tell the world about it!

**Summary Thought . . .** Do you really want to completely submit your life to the control of the Holy Spirit? First, you need to have given your life to Christ (you need to be a believer). Then, you need to ask God for the gift of the Holy Ghost (see Luke 11:13).

Respectfully submitted,  
Brother Robert S. Lehig

## LIBERTY IN CHRIST JESUS

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." Luke 4:18.

In His initial sermon, as recorded in Luke, Jesus reads this scripture from the prophet Isaiah. He claims it as his mission and its fulfillment in His ministry. One aspect of that mission is "to set at

liberty them that are bruised.” Throughout the pages of the New Testament we read again and again that we have been set free from sin. We have been freed from both the penalty of sin and from the power of sin. But the only way we can experience the freedom from sin’s power is to exercise our freedom in godliness. “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13.

It is this dual nature of liberty that seems to be such a source of confusion for some Christians. They accept the forgiveness of sins through Christ’s atoning sacrifice. However, the call to follow Jesus is seen as something optional or not applicable to their lives. Discipleship is seen as an impossible or impractical ethic especially as it is described in the Sermon on the Mount. The attempt to live a life of discipleship often feels like an act of futility. Then the power of sin raises its ugly head once again and disillusionment in the promises of Christ sets in. The Apostle Paul warned the Galatians to, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1.

How is it actually possible to live this life of discipleship with victory over sin? How do we overcome the power of sin, which is a reality in our life? We know that through faith we have access to the forgiveness of God through Christ’s atoning death. Through faith we, also, have access to God’s power through Christ’s resurrection. “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.” Romans 5:10. As Jesus walked and talked and taught His disciples in His physical life on earth so even now He desires to walk and talk and teach us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

God does not offer a “Twelve Step” program or a “how to do it” list of principles or a long list of rules that guarantees faithfulness on our part. What He offers us is companionship. Jesus says to us, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Matt. 11:29-30. We are not responding to rules but the one who rules our hearts. We are not trying to live by commandments but under the

submission of the One who commands. We are not trying to pull the load of discipleship by ourselves but are yoked with Him who discipless us.

Jesus extends to us the call to discipleship, which is the godly exercise of our liberty in Christ. Jesus calls us to follow Him just as He called His first disciples. By following Him daily we begin to learn "...the glorious liberty of the children of God." Romans 8:21b. His leading frees us to love as He loves. We are empowered to love our enemies, to return good for evil, to give without expecting in return, to forgive those who have sinned against us, and to go the second mile. We discover that no one can take away from us what we are willing to give away, even our own lives.

Jesus offers us not only His companionship but that of other disciples who are yoked to Him as well. We are placed in a community of faith, of fellow believers. He teaches us to love one another so that the world will know that we are His disciples. He binds us to Himself through love and commitment that informs our understanding. At times He has to sit us down and remind us that servanthood is the path to greatness, not lording it over one another. It is not just a common understanding of Him and what He has taught that unites us. Rather, He teaches us that it is His presence alone that can truly unite us and empower us. He unites us in heart and mind, from the inside out, and not vice versa.

Brethren, we have been called to walk with Christ in liberty. Let us so live that we enjoy the fullness of that liberty. "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." II Cor. 3:17.

Brother Phil Franklin  
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## KENYA KNOTES

Greetings to all our Brothers and Sisters from Kenya,

We left Verlins and Chad at the airport on July 15 and then headed back to the hotel with Hosea and Florence to spend the night. After breakfast we headed for home and arrived at the com-



pound around dark. We had no van problems this time.

We were busy helping to get the house ready for Hoseas to move in, so they would not have to pay another month's rent where they were living. We helped them move Saturday evening, July 24. It's been real nice having them here on the compound. We fell more free to be out after dark, and we can spend more time together. The next day, Sunday, after church we all walked to Hoseas for a dedication service. It was very meaningful, as the house was dedicated for the Lord's work and to bring honor to Him.

On July 20, 1999, baby Paul Stump was born to Gilbert and Alice. Then on July 28, Calob and Phenis had twin boys, Verling and Hosea. They both weighed a little over four pounds. On July 28, in the evening, the smallest one, Hosea, died. We shared their loss, and the next day they had the graveside service. Gilbert read from I Thess. 4:13-18, prayed and then put the small box in the ground.

They are now working on the other building on the compound, getting it ready for relatives of people in the hospital, to stay in.

We have been going around visiting the other churches on Sunday. It's been a blessing to them, and us, and has been very interesting. They are so happy when we come to worship with them.

Please continue to remember all of us over here in your prayers. There are a lot of daily challenges and decisions to make.

May God bless you all!  
In His Love,  
Brother Dave, Sister Marilyn,  
Sister Missy and David Johns

## **THE GRASS WILL GROW**

If you should take my child Lord,  
Give my hands strength to dig his grave  
Cover him with earth  
Lord send a little rain  
For grass will grow.

If my house should burn down,  
So that ashes sting the nostrils  
Making the eyes weep  
Then Lord send a little rain.

But Lord do not send  
Madness  
I ask for tears  
Do not send me moon hard madness  
To lodge snug in my skull  
I would you sent me hordes of horses  
Galloping  
Crushing  
But do not break  
The yolk of the moon on me.

Brother James Musumba

## THE NOW GENERATION

When I was young neither youth or old people could get or have all the things they wanted, go all the places they wished to go, do all the things like people are having and doing today. There was no government relief. We worked and saved, then worked and saved some more till we could get it, or do whatever we wanted.

Today when children want things their parents or someone gets it for them. They enjoy it for a little while, become tired of it, then go on wanting other things. When they reach the teens they think they must have their own personal sports car. Evidently they seem to think that parents and friends owe it to them, and later the government owes them.

We worked to learn to read, write, do arithmetic and figure and do all our studies in school. We could read each other's writing, but today we often see signatures that we cannot read the name. Today they learn to use the computers. Now I understand at the year 2000 AD the computers will die and leave the world in a terrible turmoil.

We are living in what I would call the NOW generation. All ages now want what they want NOW, when they want it, NOW. So they get a few or maybe many credit cards, which make it possible to get and have and use what they want now. The consequences sums up expensive homes, cars, vacations and so forth, that later have to be paid for, or we lose our possessions, and, yes our prestige. When all those NOW things are taken from us for debts, what is actually happening is that we have been putting on the show that we actually had nothing to call mine to show for it.

I firmly believe that the same is true with seemingly spiritual lives. God is permitting people to use His cards of blessing and spending it to the service of the devil who will make people pay and pay and pay eternally.

People would rather serve Satan because Satan gives them what they want now in the beginning of their service to him. He is a great deceiver to get people involved in sin and overcome by sin and the snare of death in the end. It is hard to get loose and go all the way with God who rewards people when the work is done with an eternal blessing and joy, gladness and thanksgiving. So let us pay our dues justly to the Lord in obedience, humility and tithe and helping others in a Christlike spirit, so that day of judgment does not find us loaded down with the debts of sin and unprepared in the heavenly works of righteousness.

We cannot serve both God and Satan. God wants our whole heart, not just a corner of it. A life for Christ is constantly a battle to live for Christ and His kingdom, and to resist the treachery, deceitfulness, deception, lies and false doctrines. I believe that many of the groups who thought that they are saved now, but in the end the credit card of their supposed salvation has not been paid up to date and they get the sentence "Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you." Luke 13:25-28 will be a large group of people.

It is high time to get right with God. Resist the devil that he will flee from us. Keep on pressing onward and upward that no evil befall us to cause us to miss the glorious realms of the eternally blessed. I pray for my readers that we meet in that Golden City of God by the river of life where the sun never sets. There we will never become tired, get sick nor grow old and Satan will never



enter in with Christ and His glorious bride and all of the redeemed during the ages to come. Are you ready to meet Him?

Study the Bible, make use of Christ's credit cards of blessings, keep it up to date in faith and works (without which it is dead). Read James 2:17, 20, 26. So our part and obligation is to search the Bible and to apply it to our lives. Just reading is not enough.

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### SPIRITUAL PRIDE

"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in." Matt. 23:13.

Our family lives in the beautiful Lebanon Valley, in the middle of what is known as the Pennsylvania Dutch Country. This area is known for its plain people: Amish, Mennonite, Quakers (at one time, but not anymore), Brethren (very few are plain), Dunkard Brethren, and Old German Baptist Brethren. But there are many "nominal" Christian groups, and in Reading, which is close by, the largest church represented is Roman Catholic. With diversity comes confusion. If you live in an area where the Dunkard Brethren are the only plain group, be glad.

Our belief in an outward manifestation of holiness through our plain attire and way of life must be based on Jesus Christ in our heart. It is Christ that has changed us and caused us to live as a witness not only of Him, but of the Godly practices that Jesus and the Disciples taught: modesty, simplicity, and non-conformity. The Pharisees elevated themselves rather than God. Jesus said in Matthew 23:5, "But all their works they do to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments." Jesus knew their hearts. He knew they had spiritual pride. How many "plain people" are that way to be seen of men?

Many modern-day Pharisees "shut up the kingdom of Heaven against men." Rather than reaching out with "their gospel" to oth-

ers, they merely look down upon others as being inferior spiritually. Not too long ago we were told of a baptismal service in a neighboring group. We went because one of the children being baptized was friends with one of our children. Our groups, however, are different in many ways. We arrived there and deliberately stayed in the background because we were not part of this group. Due to our appearance we looked much different from the others. While we were there not one person made any attempt to come and talk to us, or even acknowledge our presence; not even those who knew us. This is spiritual pride at its worst, because it tells others that they are not important, their soul is not important to God. Anyone who has ever been in our position (and for us it has happened many times) knows how painful it is to be told in effect, "You are not welcome here."

Let us fight spiritual pride as a church by reaching out to others, showing them that they have a soul that will live forever, and that it is God's desire (and also ours) that their soul belongs in heaven, not in hell. People can soon tell if we love them. Do we?

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
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### **THIS ROAD I WALK...**

Lord, I would walk life's road with Thee  
Not just in moments glad,  
Not just when pleasantness abides  
But lonely times and sad.

Life is a maze at very best  
Of bright and somber tones...  
When skies burst forth with sunshine, when  
The wild wind scolds and moans.

It's far too much to think that I  
Deserve to know all good,

To find all roses strewn before  
Or to be understood.  
For Thou didst walk this path I tread  
So many years ago,  
And, Thou, the Perfect One, could read  
Man's inner thoughts, I know.

Thou didst not seek the life of ease  
Nor have a place to lay  
Thy head when wearied from Thy work  
At closing of each day.  
Facing the frenzied, jeering mob  
That chanted "Crucify!"  
Thou didst not seek Thine own will but  
Thy God to glorify.

Life's road is rough and oft I sink  
Beneath this load I bear,  
But what a comfort to me is  
Thy great sustaining care.  
So, help me, Lord, to walk this road  
In sunshine and in cloud  
An uncomplaining soul, grateful  
For what Thou hast allowed!

-Selected by Brother Frank D. Shaffer

## **WE ARE AT WAR, BUT WITH WHOM?**

I have been told that we can lose the battle but still win the war. We can also win the battle and still lose the war. Every day we face a battle which we may not always win, but I praise God that Jesus has already won the war with the giving of His precious blood for our sins. We still have battles to fight, but if we do not accept Jesus as our Savior, our personal war will never be won.

So what kind of war are we in? In the hymn we sing,



“Lead on, O King Eternal,  
Till sin’s fierce war shall cease,  
And Holiness shall whisper  
The sweet Amen of peace;  
For not with swords loud clashing,  
Nor roll of stirring drums;  
With deeds of love and mercy,  
The heav’nly kingdom comes.”

We are at war, but what kind of war is it? No swords or drums?

Eph. 6:10-13, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

We stand against the wiles of the devil. Not against flesh and blood, but spiritual wickedness in high places. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, Satan only puts up a bigger fight. Is this a flesh and blood fight? How real is this war?

Jesus and Peter showed us both sides of this war.

Mark 8:31-33, “And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.”

Matt. 16:15-17, “He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”

Who was Jesus at war with? Peter or Satan? Was this in the flesh and blood or the spirit? Jesus is showing us where to look. With Peter He knew when Satan was behind the remarks and when the Holy Spirit was leading. Jesus is showing us not to get mad at the person, but to rebuke the devil. Then with deeds of love and mercy lead the person to the blood of Jesus Christ.

We wear the name of Christian, which means Christ-like, but how close do we follow His example?

John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

If we follow Jesus, verse 17 would read like this: For God sent us into the world not to condemn the world; but that the world, through Jesus Christ working in us, might be saved. Jesus came not to condemn, but to save. How does one come under the conviction of the Holy Spirit? With deeds of love and mercy people get to see what Jesus is like. Love and mercy speak to everyone's heart more than anything else. Just like lighting a candle in a dark room. It brings light so all can see. Nothing can be hidden. So it is with men when Jesus comes into their heart. All sin is revealed and only Jesus can do this in people's hearts. With deeds of love and mercy, each and every Christian shows Jesus working in their lives.

We are at war, and how do we fight? The feeling to judge others comes so quickly, but what is Jesus telling us to do?

Matt. 6:14-15, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Luke 6:36-38, "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be

measured to you again.”

Jesus said the judging is for Him to do after the harvest is over. We are at war, and with deeds of love and mercy the battles are being won for the kingdom of God.

The feeling to judge others comes so easily. Where does that thought come from? I have been told we are not to be a judge of others, just fruit inspectors. What is the difference between good fruit and bad fruit?

Matt. 7:20, “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”

Gal. 5:22-26, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”

Okay, that kind of fruit. It is fruit that only the Holy Spirit can help us with. As we go through each day we are producing fruit, either good fruit with help from the Holy Spirit or bad fruit with the help of Satan.

Jesus did not promise a road of ease; rather, we must take up our cross daily and follow Him.

John 15:18-19, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”

In this war we will find ourselves on one side or the other, but never in the middle.

Josh. 24:15, “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

As we have fellowship one with another we will run into people with different ideas and feelings. We may get the feeling to really want to thump someone, but in the army of God we do not fight



with swords or words of judgment. With deeds of love and mercy, His heavenly kingdom will come, "Lead on, O King Eternal."

What is the one thing in which we can always rejoice? It is that God loves each one of us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to live on earth as a man without sin, to die on the cross for our sins so that we may have eternal life with Him. Praise God and thank you Jesus.

Love in Christ Jesus  
Brother Roy Litfin

## IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE

By Mrs. Lois Blanchard

If Jesus came to your house  
To spend a day or two—  
If He came unexpectedly,  
I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room  
To such an honored Guest,  
And all the food you'd serve to Him  
Would be the very best.

And you would keep assuring Him  
You're glad to have Him there—  
That serving Him in your own home  
Is joy beyond compare.

But—when you saw Him coming,  
Would you meet Him at the door  
With arms outstretched in welcome  
To your heavenly Visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes  
Before you let Him in,  
Or hide some magazines and put

The Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio  
And hope He hadn't heard,  
And wish you hadn't uttered  
That last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music  
And put some hymnbooks out?  
Could you let Jesus walk right in,  
Or would you rush about?

And I wonder—if the Saviour spent  
A day or two with you,  
Would you go right on doing  
The things you always do?

Would you keep right on saying  
The things you always say?  
Would life for you continue  
As it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation  
Keep up its usual pace,  
And would you find it hard each meal  
To say a table grace?

Would you be glad to have Him meet  
Your very closest friends,  
Or would you hope they'd stay away  
Until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him stay  
Forever on and on,  
Or would you sigh with great relief  
When He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know  
The things that you would do  
If Jesus Christ in person came  
To spend some time with you.

Would you sing the songs you always sing  
And read the books you read  
And let Him know the things on which  
Your mind and spirit feed?

Would you take Jesus with you  
Ev'rywhere you'd planned to go,  
Or would you maybe change your plans  
For just a day or so?

Selected

## SING, REJOICE AND PRAISE THE LORD

"Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust." Romans 15:8-12.

As we write this we are going through a time of extreme draught in the area in which we live. Water usage has been rationed to only that of necessity. Most of the crops grown by the farmers in the area have been diagnosed as being a disaster. The extremely hot days and many nights along with the high humidity have taken its toll. Sickness and death have been contributed to it and most of those who have survived without ill effects complain of a complete lack of energy. The newspapers continue to report accounts of senseless murders and other crime. While the land suffers from



lack of moisture and the inhabitants of the land suffer from injustice, the earthly church is suffering from a lack of true worship, as a whole.

Do we have anything to sing, rejoice and praise the Lord about? In the midst of trial and tribulation we still have the promise of our Lord and Savior that He will never leave us nor forsake us. We can be sure that He is true to His Word. The Apostle Paul gives us several reasons to sing, rejoice and praise the Lord.

First he says that Jesus Christ confirmed the promises made unto the fathers. He assured us of the accuracy and reliability of the Old Testament. Not only that, He was the fulfillment of those promises.

Next the Apostle Paul tells us that as Gentiles we might glorify God for His mercy. God chose the nation of Israel as His chosen people in the Old Testament era. We can sing, rejoice and praise the Lord that God, in His mercy, also included the Gentiles in His plan of salvation. Though the earth may be filled with trials and sorrow, we have a heavenly promise to look forward to. We are thankful that many of the songs we sing in our Dunkard Brethren congregations speak of our future home with our Lord. We are also thankful that our songs include the precious blood of Christ that was shed for our sins. We believe we are being faithful to the admonition given, "and sing unto thy name."

The Apostle Paul goes on to instruct us, as Gentiles, to Rejoice with his people. This is a quotation from the Old Testament. We can rejoice that under the New Testament era the difference between Jew and Gentile, for salvation purposes, has been eliminated. Galatians 3:28 teaches us, "There is neither Jew nor Greek (Gentile), there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

The Apostle Paul then tells us, as Gentiles, to praise the Lord and for all people to laud the Lord Jesus Christ. To laud is to extol or an even clearer meaning, to praise highly. When we give our Lord and Savior the praise and honor He so richly deserves we truly have reason to sing, rejoice and praise the Lord.

We are told that the root of Jesse shall rise to reign over the

Gentiles. There is a possibility that we can sing, rejoice and praise the Lord without really worshipping Him. There are many today who want Jesus for their Savior, but do not desire for Him to reign over them as their Lord. The major reason we are concerned about the practice of casual dress for worship services is because this is often a sign of this type of thinking. We are told that once we recognize His authority, then we can put our trust in Him.

If we sing, rejoice and praise the Lord with the right attitude and reason we can claim the Apostle Paul's parting blessing for our own. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

If you have never accepted God's gift of salvation for your own He can put a new song in your heart, rejoicing in your soul and a praise for the Lord upon your lips.

Brother James M. Hite  
816 E. Birch St.  
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM HEAVEN!

The birth of Jesus was foretold long, long ago - even when Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden. They made a sad mistake eating of the tree which the Lord God had told them not to eat of, lest they die. God told the serpent who had caused all the trouble, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise His heel." This meant some day a child would be born of a woman who would break the power of the serpent, or Satan, and give man a chance to regain his friendship with God.

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." The prophet Micah revealed the very place where this special child would be born: "But thou Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is

to be ruler in Israel.”

I suppose many young girls in Bethlehem hoped they would be the one to have this wonderful baby boy. But many years rolled by and Micah's prophecy was nearly forgotten. To Daniel, the angel Gabriel said, “From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto Messiah the Prince, shall be seven weeks and threescore and two weeks.” This would be sixty-nine weeks and some people probably thought it surely wouldn't be very long now. Sixty-nine weeks is only a little over a year. But the weeks were prophetic weeks - a day for a year - so it was 483 years till the angel Gabriel came again, not to a prophet this time, but to a young virgin, a young woman who had never had any children.

As the time for the birth of Jesus came near, there must have been great concern among angels in heaven. The Lord, whom they adored, was about to leave them and dwell on earth with man; to be born of a woman as a little baby boy. This we just cannot understand but we must believe it is true. God doesn't always explain everything to us, but if we believe what He does tell us, we will always be blessed for it.

When the 483 years came to fulfillment, Gabriel came to the young virgin Mary. She was a good woman for God chose her of all others to be the mother to this wonderful baby Jesus who was to be the Saviour of the world. “Hail thou that art highly favored,” said Gabriel. “The Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women.” Mary wondered what was meant and how she could be blessed among women - she, an unknown girl in a poor village like Nazareth; Gabriel spoke again, “Fear not Mary, for thou hast found favour with God. And the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.”

To Mary this didn't seem possible - her son to be a king! This couldn't be; she wasn't even married! She was betrothed to Joseph, or engaged as we would say. Gabriel knew all about Mary and told her, “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” Gabriel also told her that her cousin Elizabeth had conceived a son in her



old age and it was the sixth month with her who was called barren. It was hard for Mary to believe all this. It was almost too wonderful for her. But Gabriel said, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." This no doubt, caused Mary to remember the prophecy of the promised Messiah and her unfailing belief in the God of Israel. She said something that is good for us to remember. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

Isn't this a wonderful story of how God sent the angel Gabriel to talk to Mary who was to be the mother of Jesus? Next month we will tell about the birth of the greatest of all the prophets who would someday baptize the Lord Jesus. Do you know his name?

Brother Rudy Cover

## OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Brave Mother

J. H. Moore

It was the middle of the afternoon of a busy day that I closed my desk, passed down to the street and one-half hour later found myself approaching a home, where crepe hung from the front door. Men and women, young and old, were filling the rooms. I was given a seat in the room occupied by the mourners, though I was not of the kindred. The white casket, almost covered with flowers of the season, was in one corner of the same room.

The casket contained all that was mortal of a boy who was sleeping his last sleep. I could see his well-formed face from where I was sitting, for his head seemed to be resting upon a small pillow, placed there by loving hands. The ministers took their places and all was quiet, seemingly as still as death. We were with the dead.

I was to be a quiet listener and observer, and so was left to meditate. I fell to thinking, and called to mind some of the scores of instances where I had spoken words of comfort to the bereft, and gave words of warning to others in the presence of the departed. Then I remembered that I had stood by the dead on both continents, that I had stood by the tombs of some of the most distinguished dead the world had ever known, that I had been in the

death chambers of the rich and poor, of saints and sinners, of the devout and vicious.

I fell to meditating, and even meditated as the officiating minister read and prayed. I listened and meditated too, for there are times when one may do both. I said to myself: This lad is not dead. He does not look like one who is dead. He is just sleeping. The machinery of the body has stopped, the fires have gone out, there is nothing to warm the life-giving blood. What if Jesus would enter the room, rekindle the fires, warm up the blood, touch the secret spring of life and again put the machine in motion! There would be joy in the family, faith in hundreds of souls would be revived, and all the city would come to the humble home to look upon the lad enjoying his second lease on life. But it was really the resurrection scene that was passing before my mind. A little later and this will come to pass. The lad may rest a while, a number of sad days may come to the parents, but the Master will, by and by, appear upon the scene of action, press the unseen button, and the boy will awaken from his long, sweet sleep.

The minister had said his last word, the last song was sung and the people had passed the casket, taking their last look at the sleeping lad. There was a lull for a moment, then a few kindred stood by the casket. Then occurred what I had never seen before. The mother moved to the side of her boy, adjusted the pillow to suit her idea of comfort, placed a small bunch of flowers by the partly turned face, so the eyes might fall upon them should they open, and arranged parts of the garment, requiring only the touch of a mother. Then she gathered up what looked to me like a soft, thin blanket, covered the boy gently, tucking the blanket in here and there, just as a mother is often seen to do when preparing her child for the night. The movements of her hands and eyes indicated that it was all natural rather than premeditated. Not another hand or foot in the rooms moved while this was going on. It was the work of but a minute, but it seemed like many. She paused an instant, taking a good look at the covered form, as though she thought her child was now prepared for his long night's sleep, then raising her veil, kissed his brow good-night and resumed her seat with perfect composure.

There were, at this moment, probably no dry eyes in seeing distance. Strong men wept like children, though not a word had been said. But to myself I said: "Brave mother." Then again I thought, Why not? It was the mother's boy. Hundreds of times she had tucked the covers around him in bed, planted the good-night kiss and wished him pleasant dreams, only to greet her bright, loving boy in the morning. And now, in this his last sleep, why should not the kind mother give to his preparation the finishing touch?

The casket was closed and an hour later the mother saw her boy placed in what is to be called the lad's bedchamber until the angel from on high calls out the resurrection morning. It is seemingly an instance in which the boy goes to his final rest a short time before the parents retire. But when the evenings now come to the brave little mother she will never need to say to herself—as thousands of sad mothers have said, "Oh, where is my boy tonight?" The mother knows that her boy is quietly tucked away in his little white bed, just where she left him when she gave him the last good-night kiss.

## OBITUARY

### MARTHA SHAFFER

Sister Martha Elizabeth Shaffer, born January 30, 1922, in Dallas Center, Iowa was the daughter of the late William and Rachel (Garwick) Ebersole. She departed from this life, June 21, 1999, at the age of 77 years, 4 months, 22 days.

Martha gave her heart to the Lord at the age of twelve and was baptized into the Dunkard Brethren Church at Dallas Center, Iowa. At the age of fifteen, she moved to the Waynesboro Congregation and was a faithful servant of Him until her death.

On November 16, 1942, Martha was united in marriage to Brother Frank D. Shaffer near Hagerstown, Maryland.

She is survived by her husband, Frank and their four children; daughter Angeline, wife of Eldon Mallow of Clearville, Pennsylvania, son Frank, husband of Janet (Johns) of Greencastle, Pennsylvania, daughter Linda Stitely of Greencastle, Pennsylvania and son Myron, husband of Joyce (Smootz) of New Creek, West Virginia;



ten grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, ten step-great-grandchildren and one step-great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by an infant daughter, an infant great-grandson, a sister and three brothers.

Funeral services were held June 24, 1999, at the Upton Church of the Brethren, Upton, Pennsylvania by Elder Paul Hartz and Bro. Dean Shaffer. Interment was in the Upton Church of the Brethren Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank everyone who remembered us in prayer, and with cards and memorials. May God bless each one who reached out to us in love and sympathy.

#### I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took His hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I found peace at the close of day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembering joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Ah yes, these things too I will miss.  
Be not burdened with time of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all to brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me  
God wanted me now, He set me free.

The family

## MEETING NOTICES

September 12-19 - Revival Meeting, Grandview, Missouri

September 12 - Harvest Meeting, Englewood, Ohio

September 19-26 - Revival Meeting, Bethel, Pennsylvania

September 26-October 3 - Revival Meeting, Walnut Grove, MD

October 3-10 - Revival Meeting, Plevna, Indiana

October 8-17 - Revival Meeting, Lititz, Pennsylvania

## LOVEFEAST NOTICES

September 18 - Grandview, Missouri

October 3 - Walnut Grove, Maryland

October 9 - Plevna, Indiana

October 23 - Englewood, Ohio

October 31 - Bethel, Pennsylvania

November 6 - Pleasant Home, California

November 7 - Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

November 14 - Lititz, Pennsylvania

## NEWS ITEMS

### WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

Brother James Eberly from Terre Hill, Pennsylvania will be joining us to conduct revival services beginning Sunday, September 26, and concluding with the Lovefeast celebration on Sunday evening, October 3. Your prayers and presence would be inspiring and encouraging to us during these efforts.

Sister Dorcas Shelly, Cor.

### WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing the West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meetings, with Brother Kenneth Wilkerson of Bethel, Pennsylvania. The meetings are to be from Friday, October 1 through Sunday, October 10.

Please pray for these meetings. All are cordially invited to come

and worship the Lord with us.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans to have a Revival, October 10 through 17. Brother Henry Walker will be our Evangelist. Communion will be on October 16, at 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.

You are cordially invited to all these meetings.

Our Harvest Meeting is set for November 14, 1999, with Brother Dennis St. John as speaker. Please come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz, Pennsylvania Congregation will hold Revival Meetings, October 10 through 17, Lord willing, with Bro. Ray Stuber as the evangelist. You are welcome to come and worship with us, 9:30 A.M. Sunday mornings, 7:30 P.M. evenings. Lovefeast will be Sunday, October 17.

Sister Arlene Birt, Cor.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

We, the Congregation of Dayton, Virginia, have postponed, for the time being, our Revival Meeting and Lovefeast scheduled for October 13 through October 17, 1999. Due to sickness among our members, we are unable to hold these meetings. Please pray for us that we will be strengthened so we can hold these meetings in the future.

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Congregation is looking forward to our Fall Revival Meetings beginning Sunday, October 23 through Sunday, October 31. Our Evangelist is Brother Dennis St. John from Ohio. A Lovefeast is planned for Saturday evening, October 30. We invite you to come and worship with us at any time during our week of meetings.

Sister Ruth Clark, Cor.



## THANK YOU

Dear Brethren and Sisters,

We would like to thank each of you for all the cards, phone calls, and flowers for our 90th Birthdays. Each day was a real joy to receive the mail and hear from all our Church family. We received one hundred ninety-two cards. May the Good Lord richly bless you all.

Brother Levi and Sister Grace Miller

## NOTICE

Anyone interested in receiving any E-mail newsletters from the African Mission, please send your e-mail address to kenton11@juno.com. Placing your address in a list will greatly simplify the mailing process for any such mailings as one selection will include all that are on the list.

Brother Kenton Miller

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER  
1999**

October 3 - Jesus Silences His Enemies - Luke 20:20-47.

1. How did Jesus silence those who opposed Him?
2. Who are the "children of the resurrection"?

October 10 - Two Mites And Signs Of His Coming Again - Luke 21:1-19.

1. How could the widow, by giving two mites, have given more than all the rich men?
2. How should believers respond when persecuted for their faith?

October 17 - Watching For His Coming Again - Luke 21:20-30.

1. What did Jesus mean by, "until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled"?
2. In what ways will Jesus' second coming be different from His first coming?

October 24 - A Betrayer At The Supper Table - Luke 22:1-23.

1. How did the crucifixion of Jesus fulfill the Jewish Pass-over?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come"?

October 31 - Sleepy Disciples - A Praying Lord - Luke 22:24-46.

1. What did Jesus mean when He twice said to His Disciples, "Pray that ye enter not into temptation"?
2. What was the "cup" that Jesus asked God the Father to remove?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1999**

October 3 - What Shall I Do With Christ - Matt. 27:20-31.

1. How do each of us personally have to answer the question, "What shall I do...with Jesus"?
2. Why did the people want Barabbas released instead of Jesus?

October 10 - Persistence - Mark 2:1-12.

1. What obstacles may we find in our way of coming to Jesus?
2. What may we have to "take up" to be able to walk with Jesus?

October 17 - Exchanging - Mark 8:34-38, Phil. 3:8-14.

1. Explain what Jesus meant when He said, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself".
2. What is "The righteousness which is of God by faith."?

October 24 - A Millstone - Mark 9:41-50.

1. Why is it so important not to offend a little one that believes in Christ?
2. What did Jesus mean, "Have salt in yourselves"?

October 31 - Popularity - John 12:35-50, Col. 3:22-25.

1. How can we walk in the light and not walk in darkness?
2. What are often our reasons for not confessing Jesus before our fellowman?

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# BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## THE CHILD OF A KING

My Father is rich in houses and lands,  
He holdeth the wealth of the world in his hands!  
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,  
His coffers are full,—he has riches untold.

My Father's own Son, the Savior of men,  
Once wondered o'er earth as the poorest of them,  
But now he is reigning forever on high,  
And will give me a home in heav'n by and by.

I once was an outcast stranger on earth,  
A sinner by choice, and an alien by birth!  
But I've been adopted, my name's written down,  
An heir to a mansion, a robe, and a crown.

A tent or a cottage, why should I care?  
They're building a palace for me over there!  
Tho' exiled from home, yet still I may sing:  
All glory to God, I'm a child of a King.

-Hattie E. Buell

## THE SERVANT PRINCE

We sing, "The Child of a King" to lift our minds above our obvious, everyday journey. It encourages us as the trials of life threaten to overcome and defeat us. It is good that we may look forward to the time when we shall have an eternity to enjoy the privileges of a prince in the house of our Heavenly Father.

In the natural order of human affairs, a prince enjoys many privileges that the average citizen does not have. The prince, who someday will be the ruler, has a certain amount of power and prestige. He may order those around him to do as he wishes. He fares sumptuously. He is clothed royally. He has little to do beyond preparing to rule. Many princes fail to use their time and talents wisely. Many become vain, conceited and self-centered.

Certain items are identified with the prince. The ring, shoes, robe and feasting belong to the prince. All of these were brought forth by the father of the prodigal son when he returned home. It was a great honor to receive these signs of his rank. The fatted calf was killed to honor him. The signet ring spoke of a seal to his words. The shoes were special for most people could only wear sandals. The robe was of royal purple.

A prince came to his high position by his birth into the royal family. Usually the oldest son was the prince. Unless there was some unusual reason, this eldest son would become the king at the death of the monarch. People were willing to accord honor and obedience to him as the representative of his father. The power of

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the father was behind the son. All knew that should they offend the prince, they would risk the displeasure of the King.

A Christian is a prince in the family of God. Unlike most princes a Christian is not a begotten son of the King but an adopted son. Through the vicarious sacrifice of Jesus Christ, a human may become a son of God. It is an offer unlike any other. A doomed man can become a prince. It involves a choice. God has already chosen to give His Son as the only, effective sacrifice for the sins of each individual. The choice of becoming a prince is left to each individual, who may accept or reject the offer that God has made.

Being a prince in the Family of God entitles the Christian to many benefits. The benefits include fellowship and the worship of God through the Church. There are constant helps along the pathway of life. There are always the future blessings that await the Christian.

Many have taken the view that as a "Child of the King" the Christian is able to claim various blessings, both temporal and Spiritual. They teach that the Christian becomes a ruler and is able to have his own way. All must yield before him. He may appropriate what is due the prince to himself.

While obviously our relationship with God is very special, we may forget that we are to follow the example of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Jesus was the true Prince. His life during His earthly ministry was anything but a prince's life. Even the animals were better cared for than He was temporally. He was dependent upon the help and generosity of His friends. Many times He could have delivered Himself from danger by His power, but He did not but bore the consequences of men's sins.

Jesus made Himself a servant, even to the very people who would harm Him. He asked forgiveness for those who crucified Him. He washed the feet of His disciples. He taught in parables those who were unable to understand learned discussions. He healed those who with need came before Him during His journeys. He was meek and inoffensive to all, including the children. Those who were often ignored or scorned were welcome to approach Him. He presented God as a caring, helpful Heavenly Father, not as a stern, wrathful, angry ruler. Although He never lessened the sever-

ity of God's justice and judgment, He also offered a way of escape. He came to seek and to save the lost, not to punish or destroy them. He came as the ultimate servant. God served His creation.

A Christian is one who imitates Christ through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. As an imitator of Christ, he should choose to be a servant. His service should be directed in the various avenues of life. The first service should be to bring the gospel before the minds of those who need it. This may mean service through financial or physical help. Service may take many forms, but whatever the form it speaks of humility. Jesus was humble although He was a prince. The Christian should be a servant ruler in the present world.

Have you become a prince in the household of God? Have you become a servant prince after the example of Jesus Christ?

M.C.Cook

## **PETER'S GREAT SERMON**

Acts 2:37-47

Suddenly, it all breaks loose! Peter preached a great sermon! But if you carefully examine it, where is its greatness? Where is the eloquence? Where are the illustrations? Where is the three-part outline?

Peter's sermon was great for at least two reasons. First, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit, and that filling was fresh! This message came from a man - God's chosen man - who was under the influence of the Holy Spirit! Secondly, Peter lifted up Jesus Christ in his sermon. While we obviously do not have the full text of the message, I am sure that under the leading of the Holy Spirit, Luke carefully and accurately captured the essence of the message.

Well, when "they" heard this message, "they" were pricked in their heart, and asked what they should do about it. Apparently, some were gathered there who had helped to influence Pilate to have Jesus Christ crucified (see verse 23). Rather than reacting against this forceful challenge Peter gave, their hearts were softened and gripped with conviction because of their sins! Peter's sermons led to action. This is wonderful! This is what a sermon is

supposed to do!

Of course, Peter had just been waiting for the people to ask what they should do! In verses 38-39, Peter tells them (and us) what to do about their (and our) sinful condition.

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

There are many today who argue about exactly what it takes to become saved. They want to reduce it down to the finest factor. They only want to do the very minimum. Do you think that is a very good way to look at our soul's salvation?

We should not be concerned about the bare minimum it takes to be saved. Instead, we should be overwhelmingly concerned about pleasing God wholeheartedly! His least desire should be our command! Therefore, when the Word says “repent,” then we ought to repent (be truly sorry and turn around and head in a different direction). When the Word says that we should be “baptized,” then there is no need to argue the fine points about exactly what role baptism plays in salvation; rather, we should submit to Christian baptism.

Notice carefully the promise given at the end of verse 38! “And ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” We need to walk in that promise; we need to claim it! Too many so-called Christians are living in the realm of the natural man - and not yielding to the influence and leadership of the Holy Ghost in their lives! The Bible clearly teaches us about the fruit that will issue forth from a Spirit-filled believer.

Without going into their choice of living together and socialism, just note that the believers had singleness of heart in praising God. For a time, they had favor with all the people (verse 47).

**Summary Thought . . .** Three thousand souls were added to the Kingdom that day! Is it possible to get a reaction like this to a “Spirit-filled” message today?

Respectfully Submitted  
Brother Robert S. Lehigh



## KENYA KNOTES

Greetings from Kenya,

We have been keeping very busy over here. Usually there is more to do in a day than we have time to do. Anyone who was here can understand what I mean when I say that.

They have finally finished the well project up at the school. They found a good amount of water, for which we thanked the Lord. The well driller was a white missionary from Sweden. He had an African crew working for him. Everything went fine.

Dave has been working on trying to get a clear deed for the property ever since he has been here. We think that everything will be settled next week. It's been quite a job, and took a lot of patience. He also has been working on repairing some of the springs in the area.

Things have somewhat settled down since the shooting last month. There had been some robbing of shops, and one of the butchers was killed. A lot of the shops now close around dark, for their safety. They moved the Army in from Nairobi. They also asked us to move out of the church since they wanted the buildings in which to cook. We moved church here on the compound for the time being. We set up the benches on the verandah. It's crowded, but it will work.

We have been around and visited all the Dunkard churches. We might go back and revisit a few of them. There are a lot of needs right now. It seems like a bad time of the year for most, trying to feed their families and send the children back to school. It sure makes us aware of how we are dependent on God to supply all our needs.

Keep praying that God will bless His church here in Africa, and that the people will be faithful to Him. Also that God will send someone over here to continue His work.

In His Love,  
Brother Dave, Sister Marilyn,  
Sister Missy and David

## GROW

II Peter 3:18, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen."

Beloved, Peter is exhorting us to increase in grace and in knowledge. How is it that we must do this? In the previous verse Peter is cautioning us about being led astray. Could verse 18 be the solution to not being led astray?

How can we grow in grace? What is grace? Grace is God's unmerited favor. Growing in grace is coming to a realization of what salvation really means and has done for you. Salvation is the price paid for our redemption. The redeemer kinsman stood in the gap for us. Without it we are lost eternally. Without it there is not one single chance for our redemption. There is absolutely nothing that can be done in our behalf. We have to realize that it is a gift to all mankind. A gift that reconciles man to God, the only gift. When we begin to understand the immensity of Christ's redemptive work, then it is that we begin to grow in grace and knowledge. Our lives begin to reflect Christ our Savior. We fill our lives with love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. We understand how this all fits into our lives. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples." With this knowledge and understanding our lives begin to fulfill our purpose, that of glorifying the Father. Our motives are pure with a sense of direction. We will have a greater grasp on what dying to ourselves really means.

The chances of being led astray become less and less. Our communion with the Father is beautiful.

As a child of God we now have set roots down deep in the faith. Christ is our cornerstone. Our life does not depend on what others do or say but depends on Christ and Him alone. "But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

We as a body can accomplish this very thing through Christ. Then it is that the redemptive work is brought to light and Christ is glorified.

In Christ's Love  
Brother David Snyder

## PURE SPEECH

Pure speech is often considered by modern Christianity as an unnecessary ideal, so our speech often sounds more like something from the local street corner than from God fearing Christians. Here is what the Word of God has to say about our speech.

First, the tongue reflects the condition of the heart. "...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." Matthew 12:34-35.

Gossip, bitterness, jealousy, strife, contention, and a host of other sins manifest themselves through the tongue. Peter describes Christ as someone, "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not;..." I Peter 2:22-23. Can you claim this example of humility present in your own life?

The tongue is also capable of doing great harm. Paul wrote to the Ephesians warning them, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers...Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice." Ephesians 4:29,31. Let us not be so quick to blow our trumpet the next time someone disagrees with us or does something we do not like. Let us take heed to the advice of Peter, "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing." I Peter 3:9.

Yes, apparently our speech is very important and God will judge us accordingly. Jesus said, "...every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Matthew 12:36. What is an idle word? An idle word is a word that neither ministers grace nor instruction to those who hear it. In the Hebrew and Greek language it would refer to vain or empty words; also wicked and injurious ones. We could then list the following:

1. Swearing, to try to strengthen our statements by using profanity; using something revered, in a derogatory way.
2. Cursing, to pronounce or wish woes or calamities upon someone.



3. Blasphemy, using names of sacred things in ways disrespectful or irreverent.
4. Bywords, slang, lightminded and silly chatter.

The Word of God gives us some guidelines.

"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise." Proverbs 10:19.

"Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him." Proverbs 29:20.

"Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding." Proverbs 17:28.

"Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Colossians 4:6.

Grace and peace to all from God the father,  
Brother Stephen G. Aldinger

## DO WE LIFT UP JESUS??

"Turn around and make a friend and say, 'God loves you, and so do I.'" How many of you have heard this in Church?

Now there are some of us who are incapacitated, unable to drive or even walk well. Yet, we need to go to see the doctor, go to the store, run business errands or just need someone with whom we can share our problems. The next day after Church we try to think of that person's name or how to contact him when we need help. Would that person in need be considered one of the least in God's kingdom? In my association I believe there are a lot of lonely people in this world, especially among the aged.

I have visited all the local churches in my area except the Samoan. I was quite impressed by one of them, which sent us a letter of thanks with an invitation to return. If you were treated the same way that you treat visitors to your Church, would you return? Do we always give the kind of welcome that makes people want to return? Was not Jesus accused of going to eat and visit with sinners?

I know of a man who tried to make friends with all he knew at a

church he attended. He talked to their phone answering machines, all with no response or reciprocation. He left that Church and found another that did not ignore him. He donated large sums of funds to the new church. Money is only important if used to buy that which is bread and furthers God's kingdom.

Only the love of money is the root of evil. We need it to sustain life and the lives of the worthy needy who are much less fortunate than us. Is not that fulfilling the great commandment? God so loved the world. Should not we show that love to all His creation? I think this is one idea on how to get our Church to grow.

I believe the big Churches get their large attendance with entertainment of musical instruments, humor and famous people, but that does not seem like Christ's way to me.

Do not forget, if you meet someone without a smile, give them yours.

Yesterday is history

Tomorrow is a mystery

But its a present today

May God continue to bless.

Brother Walter Myers

## SHARING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." John 6:35.

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." John 6:51.

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." John 7:37.

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17.

"Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy." Psalm 132:9.

"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness,..." Isaiah 61:10.

There has probably been no movement that has caused as much controversy and confusion in the earthly church than the movement known as the Social Gospel. Many are not aware of the theological teaching that spawned this movement which became a major factor in the ecumenical movement which adopted it. According to this movement, Jesus Christ did not literally arise from the grave. According to them, the major leaders of the Christian church were Peter and Paul who only thought they saw a risen Christ. They then blasphemously declare that the two individuals made the Lord Jesus Christ into a God-man!

Three major reactions have resulted from this movement. First are those who have swallowed this lie, hook, line and sinker. The teaching, with various revisions, has had an impact in most of the modern day religious movements that call themselves "Christian."

Then there are those who believe that the church should have only a limited social outreach. Many of these would limit any social work to those who hold membership in their congregation. True especially of those who consider themselves to be independent and belong to no denomination.

Last of all, a few see a need of a balance in the teachings of our Lord and Holy Scripture. We believe this is the correct position to take on this issue.

The great confusion in the Social gospel movement is that many within this movement are not even sure that there is an after life. Those who do believe in some type of after life either have fallen for the lie of reincarnation or follow the teaching of universalism, which teaches that all individuals will enter Heaven. We doubt if any follower of the Social gospel today believes in a literal burning Hell. To them "salvation" is merely providing for the needs of the body and often political freedom. Although, strangely enough, many of these are supporters of Communism or Socialism.

In Matthew 26:11 Jesus Christ informs us, "For ye have the



poor always with you; but me ye have not always." We believe He is teaching us that our major emphasis should not be in meeting the natural needs of mankind but a serious concern for their never dying soul. Each of our opening verses show a spiritual application to a natural need. We believe the Church should take such a stand.

But that is not the entire picture. For in Galatians 6:10 we read, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." It would be literally impossible for any one congregation or even any one denomination to meet the needs of everyone in the world. But this does not excuse us from meeting the needs of those who come into our path of life. The Apostle Paul informs us that this would include all men, which we understand to mean all mankind. Both as individuals and as a church we should take this seriously. We should be especially aware of the needs of those within our fellowship of faith.

Let us not be weary in well doing but not fall victim to the lies of the modern Social gospel.

Brother James M. Hite  
816 E. Birch St.  
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

## **CHILDREN'S PAGE**

### **BE YE KIND ONE TO ANOTHER**

Ephesians 4:32

"Let's not ask Jane to our picnic next Saturday. It's more fun with just the two of us," said Jennifer as she walked home from school with her friend, Heather.

Heather nodded her head in agreement, "Jane is so different, somehow. For one thing she is so ugly and sloppy in her dress."

"She's too fat, too," answered Jennifer. "It's no wonder though that she is over-weight as she is always munching on candy at recess. It does look like she could fix her hair a little neater and wear dresses that are more becoming."

"I don't know much about her family as they just recently moved

on our street, but I think she has several younger brothers and sisters."

"I can hardly wait till Saturday, picnics are such fun! My brother, Bill, has promised to take us to the park on his way to Uncle David's house. He is going to mow his yard for him. Uncle David has had a bad spell of arthritis and really isn't able to do his outside work. Bill said he would take our food and games along so we wouldn't need to carry them on our bikes."

The girls discussed the games they would like to play. "How about Croquet, Bad-minton, and maybe a couple board games that we could play on the picnic table?" asked Heather.

"That sounds like fun." Jennifer tripped up the steps to her door while Heather went on the her house down the street.

Jennifer's Mother looked up with a smile when she entered the kitchen. She quickly placed a casserole in the oven and began to prepare a salad. "How was your school day?"

"I got a good grade on my Math test, but I'll need to study hard for my History test tomorrow." Jennifer hurried up the stairs to change her dress before going to hunt the eggs.

Her Mother called up the stairs, "When you get dressed, I want you to take a dozen eggs and a couple dishes of food I've prepared to Jane's Mother, who has been so sick this past week."

Jennifer grumbled to herself as she did her chores. "I don't want to go to Jane's house! Why didn't Mother take the food over herself before I got home from school?"

Jennifer felt disgusted the whole way to Jane's house. Jane met her at the door.

"Come right in, this is a pleasant surprise, she said as she wondered what was in the basket that Jennifer was carrying. "Mother has been lying down all day with a bad headache, so I've tried to be as quiet as I could so I wouldn't disturb her rest.

"My Mother heard that your Mother was sick, so she sent some food for your family," explained Jennifer.

"Yes, Mother hasn't been well ever since we moved here last month, but I know she'll appreciate your thoughtfulness. Thanks so much!" said Jane as she set the basket on the table.

That evening as Jennifer sat at the supper table her Mother said, "I hope you will be friendly to Jane as she is trying to adjust to new surroundings. It's hard for a shy girl to get acquainted and make friends. She has so much work to do at home since her mother is sick. Why don't you invite her over some evening."

"I would rather be with Heather. Jane isn't as much fun to be with, besides she is so ugly looking and sloppy in her dress."

"For shame, Jennifer! How can you be so unkind?" You are only looking on the outward appearance and are very unkind. Don't you know that 'pretty is as pretty does'. I can think of some good traits that Jane possesses that my own little girl would do well to pattern after. Jane's Mother and I had quite a chat together yesterday. She told me that Jane is so willing to help her with the work and is so unselfish with her little brothers and sisters."

Jennifer hung her head. She realized she did have a habit of grumbling when her Mother asked her to do something for her. "I'll try to do better, Mother, and be more willing and cheerful when you give me a job to do. I'll even tell Heather we will invite Jane to go with us to our picnic Saturday. We will have a chance to get better acquainted."

"That's right," said Mother, "Why don't we see if we can make a dress for Jane that will fit her better. Her Mother has been too ill to care for her daughter's sewing."

"That will be fun, Mother, I like to sew."

"Don't forget to invite her to Sunday School and be sure to remember the Bible verse, 'Be ye kind', Ephesians 4:32 and also the Golden Rule, found in the Sermon on the Mount, 'Do unto others as ye would have them do unto you' is one of the best rules of Christian living.

Sister Maxine Surbey

## SHAME

"For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret." Ephesians 5:12.

Our nation has been shamed by the antics of those in high office. Our responsibility as Christians is to be on our knees in



prayer for our officials. The Christian who believes that we are strangers and pilgrims in this world cannot involve himself in the workings of carnal government, but yet we cannot totally ignore them. We know that we should not even participate in the election of this country's leaders, but God admonishes us to pray for them. We know that God raises up whom He will and casts down whom He will. Why the events in Washington have happened only God knows, but to feast upon these things is wrong for the Christian.

It would NOT be wrong for us to pray regularly for our President. It would NOT be wrong to gather as congregations and pray, and even fast for the leaders of our country. But to joke and laugh about the sins of the leadership is wrong and should not be engaged in by the children of God. The fact is the morals of our nation have taken a nose-dive since God has been removed from schools and government. Sins have become "mistakes" or "momentary lapses in judgment".

In Psalm 51, David pleads to God to "create in me a clean heart" after his dalliance with Bathsheba. He said, "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." He literally begs for his spiritual life. In verse 12: "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation." Oh! For penitent leaders today, even in our churches! If our leaders had the attitude of David in his dark hour the church would follow and great things would happen for God. In verse 17 David states, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

May God help me to be contrite, not haughty and proud of my relationship with God and his world. Revivals begin with contrite hearts. May God help us all.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

## THE EARLY LIFE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

During the Old Testament years the people of God suffered through many perilous times. They had been conquered by a number of heathen nations because they had been disobedient to God's commandments. They had quit keeping His Holy Sabbath and

## DUNKARD BRETHREN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Dallas Center, Iowa

November 17-20, 1999


For the Preservation of: The Faith, Our Identity, Our Integrity

Wednesday, November 17:

- I. 9:00 - Meeting of the General Mission Board
- II. Meeting of the Torreon and African Mission Boards
- III. 7:00 - Preaching and Fellowship

Thursday, November 18:

- I. 8:30-10:00 - Meeting of Standing Committee
- II. 10:15 - Meeting of All Elders, Ministers and Deacons
  - 1. Call to Order by Moderator
  - 2. Opening Devotions
  - 3. Appointment of tellers and time keeper
  - 4. Reading of Acts 15 and the Rules of Order
  - 5. Reading of the 1999 General Conference Minutes  
pertinent to the Leadership Conference
  - 6. Report of the Survey Committee
  - 7. Discussion of Survey



had joined in with the pagan revelries in the worship of heathen gods. The final and greatest Bible account was their seventy year, Babylonian captivity in slavery.

When they returned to their own land of Israel, they found their great city of Jerusalem destroyed. They found their great Temple destroyed by fire and the city walls broken down. Much work was required to repair the damage done by enemy nations and peoples.

The Israelites repented of their evil doings and went to work repairing the damage. They knew why God had punished them. There arose a religious body that would correct any commandment breakers, to prevent the land from again being corrected by God. This body became known as Pharisees. They believed in

- III. 12:00-1:00 - Break for lunch
- IV. 1:00-5:00 - Discussion of Survey
- V. 7:00 - Preaching and Fellowship

Friday, November 19

- I. 9:00-5:00 - Continued Meeting of Leadership
- II. 7:00 - Preaching and Fellowship

Saturday, November 20

- I. 9:00-3:00 - Meeting of Leadership
  - 1. Short term vision and goals
  - 2. Long term vision and goals
  - 3. Commitment to principles
  - 4. Adjournment

Some activities will be planned for the youth.

Activities will be planned for the Sisters on Thursday and Saturday. Friday will be free for Sisters to visit, shop and so forth.

Meals and lodging will be provided for those who attend this conference. If anyone needs transportation from the Des Moines airport, please contact Bro. Marty Meyers. Phone number: 515-993-3028.

Please pray for these meetings that the Holy Spirit will give us wisdom and understanding.

Brother Fred Pifer, Moderator



keeping the law to the letter through works, even to tithing their spices, but not from a heart of faith, repentance and baptism as Christ taught in love. Jesus Christ had no place in their hearts.

Apparently near the time of Christ's birth, Saul was also born of strict Pharisee parents. He was brought up in a strict Pharisee home in the city of Tarsus, a Greek city under Roman rule. As a young man he was educated at the feet of Gamaliel, a very famous and highly learned teacher, also a Pharisee, but apparently a deeper thinker than some. His name in Hebrew was Saul, but Paul in Greek. Apparently Paul was to predominate as his name the rest



of his life after conversion, perhaps because he was the apostle that was to be sent to the Gentile world. The Greeks were Gentiles.

A minister told me that according to history Paul was also one of the seventy men on the Sanhedrin, the body of the Hebrew law-makers who were the highest lawmaking body in Israel. They looked on Christ as a great opponent. The Pharisees were not baptized by John in Jordan. They did not go out to hear Christ or become acquainted with Him. Luke 7:30.

Paul never saw Christ until they met on the Damascus Road, so Saul or Paul supported the stoning of Stephen. It must have touched his conscience and heart strings to hear Stephen pray, as the stones hit him, for the wicked people who caused it to happen. They had forgotten, God's commandment which said, "Thou shalt not kill".

Paul was human. Any conscientious person hates to see other people suffer, especially when they do not fight back, but just continue to pray for their persecutors in loving petition for their souls. I would think that witnessing a stoning death like that would be a scene not ever to be erased from the human mind and especially when that person, who is being so maliciously killed, has never harmed anyone. Apparently Stephen was the first human martyr for Christ.

Christ does not pry open the heart's door. He knocks and invites, then waits to be invited in. The writer believes that the young man, Paul, sadly walked away from the scene with heavy feet and sad heart to go to Damascus to do some more persecuting of the saints there. I believe the farther he walked the more tired and more heavy his feet became. The tiredness of his mind closed in on him until he was nearly overcome. When he was nearly to Damascus the transforming crisis occurred when a light from Heaven shone around about him with a brightness so he could not see and had to be led. A voice from Heaven said unto him "Saul, Saul, why persecutest Me? And he said, Who art thou Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise,

and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." Acts 9:4-6.

I believe this message from the Lord was a Heaven-sent relief to Saul. It turned his whole life around. Now he saw Christ as his Saviour and Redeemer and Heaven became his goal. Then his reputation as a Pharisee and a hater of God's people and all things belonging to the earth became as dirt under his feet. As his blindness suddenly came upon him he groped for someone to lead him away. The true Heavenly Light began to light his life's path hereafter.

The Apostle Paul suffered many, many times. He suffered terrible punishment just because he lived for God instead of Satan. Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. Paul became a great apostle after he repented of his sins. He became a great apostle to the Gentiles and was responsible for establishing a number of congregations in the Gentile world. His letters to the churches have been a great encouragement to believers ever since.

We are living in trying and deceptive days. It is fast growing worse. I pray that the same Lord, who turned the Apostle Paul around, will also take over some lives today. May He give them clean hearts and a determination such as He did the Apostle Paul, who lived for and obeyed God the rest of his days.

Study the Bible daily. It is God's Word, and our salvation depends upon us. He (Christ) has already paid the price for our redemption if we will only accept the gift and obey Him. He cannot use us with sin in our hearts and lives. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye know not our time on earth may be finished. Are we ready to be called today?

STUDY THE BIBLE, IT HAS RICHES FAR BEYOND GOLD OR DIAMONDS

GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS

Sister Ruth M. Snyder  
6159 Garrett Highway  
Oakland, MD 21550

**BIBLE STORIES****THE MAN WHO COULDN'T TALK**

Before Jesus was born, another little baby boy was born whose father was Zacharias and whose mother was Elisabeth. Zacharias was a priest and had evidently been praying for the Messiah to come. According to the custom at that time, Zacharias was to burn incense on the altar in the temple, but the people who were there to pray stayed on the outside. As Zacharias entered the temple he saw an angel standing by the altar. Zacharias was afraid, but the angel said, "Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John." The angel said John would be great in the sight of the Lord and would make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Zacharias could hardly believe what he heard and he wanted to be very sure, so he asked the angel how he would know this, because he and his wife were old, and it seemed impossible for them to have a baby! The angel answered him and said, "I am Gabriel that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee and to shew thee glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believed not my words which shall be filled in their season."

The people outside the temple began to wonder what had happened to Zacharias because he stayed in the temple for so long. Finally he came out but he couldn't talk! It all went just like the angel said, and at last a baby was born to Elisabeth. And all this time Zacharias still couldn't talk. Whenever he wanted to say anything, he had to write it.

When the baby was eight days old, the neighbors and friends of Zacharias came to name the baby boy according to the way they did then. They thought he should be named Zacharias for his father. Elisabeth said, "Not so; but he shall be called John." Her friends said, "There are none of your relatives called John. Why do you want to name him John?" Then they made signs to Zacharias to ask him what he wanted him named. Zacharias still couldn't talk so he made signs with his hands for them to get something for him to write on. He wrote, "His name is John." And immediately he



could talk! I suppose he told them all about the angel Gabriel and what he said. The Bible says, "He spake and praised God." If Zacharias had believed the angel, he would not have had to go all that time without talking. We should never doubt the word of the Lord even if we cannot fully understand it.

The baby John grew up to be John the Baptist. Jesus said, "Among them that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist."

Brother Rudy Cover

### SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 15, 1939

IN NAME ONLY

L. A. Shumake

There is a strange line in the first chapter of Acts, "For he (Judas) was numbered among us." For some reason unknown to other mortals, Judas belonged to the disciple group—but he belonged in name only. It is not so much what we belong to as what belongs to us that counts. The name lists of all great enterprises are cluttered up with names that stand for nothing.

There are too many church people whose membership exists only in a name on the church register. They never do any thing about it.

Two men were riding on the street car looking at the funeral notices in a paper, when they found the name of an acquaintance, he was to be buried from a certain church. Said one, "I never knew till now, that Bill belonged to a church." Said the other, "No, you'd never have guessed it from the way Bill lived."

I Cor. 4:2. It is required by stewards, that a man be found faithful. Is it possible that one that has been baptized, accepted Jesus as his personal savior, renounced Satan and the sin of the world, solemnly promise to live faithful till death, and not do any thing about it?

Jesus says, "Not every one that saith Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Jesus wants us for service and we should show our faith by loving obedience to His every command. "If a man loves me he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him." (John 14:23.)

Jesus spoke of His disciples as the light of the world and said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

At a certain church a revival was in progress, a young man was prevailed upon to give his heart to God. His answer was that he "already belonged to the church." Pretension! Profession! How haughtily they stride into the kingdom of the lowly Redeemer and usurp the highest seats, and sing the hymns of praise, and utter aloud, to be seen and heard of men. Of this class Jesus referred to in His parable of the marriage feast, the King said, "Friend, how comest thou in hither and not having a wedding garment?" The word says he was speechless.

Oh! the embarrassment, remorse and shame of being in the presence of the King, out of harmony and unprepared to be a guest at the great marriage feast where, we are told, He will gird himself and serve us. Are we living before the world that exemplary life, and pattern given us by our Lord, or will we turn to the left and hear the sentence, "depart from me ye workers of iniquity. I never knew you."

Dear reader, we are shaping our lives for a great disappointment if we are living in the church and belonging in name only.

## **LIFE INSURANCE**

by Joseph Keller

"Sir, how is it going with you?"

"It is going quite well. Thank you!"

"May I ask you, have you ever purchased any life insurance policies?"

"No, I haven't."

"Well, Sir, I have a policy to introduce you to that is one of a kind."

"Oh, you have, do you?"

"Yes, this policy is priceless. You cannot possibly purchase it. It has benefits that are out of this world. Yet, because I want you to have this policy so very much I am offering it to you with no price. In fact, your policy has already been paid for. The price was covered nearly 2000 years ago by the blood of Jesus, God's Son."

Praise God! Dear Reader, this marvelous life insurance policy is still available. You may have it, if you will. Those benefits that are "out of this world" include the following items:

1. Freedom from sin (Romans 5 & 6)
2. Improved relationships with others (I John 3:10-24)
3. Peace (Philippians 4:7)
4. Eternal life (I Corinthians 15:51-58)
5. A mansion (John 14:2)
6. Heaven (Revelations 21 & 22)

The above items are only a sampling of what comes in this life insurance policy. There are many other benefits as well. Friend, if you truly desire this life insurance policy, just come to the One who has paid for your policy, the man Christ Jesus. Believe in Christ. Realize what He has done for you. Repent of your sinfulness. Confess Him as Lord and Saviour. Take Him into your heart and life. Trusting to see you in Heaven.

On the King's Behalf:

A fellow sinner, saved by Grace.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23.

"For the wages of sin is DEATH; but the GIFT of God is Eternal Life through JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD." Romans 6:23.

"Ye must be born again." John 3:7.

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the LORD JESUS, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the DEAD, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:9.

"Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing HE EVER LIVETH to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25.



"Behold Now is the accepted time; behold, Now is the day of salvation." II Corinthians 6:2.

Selected by Brother Lynn H. Miller

This article is available in tract form by writing to Pilgrim Tract Society, P.O. Box 126, Randleman, NC 27317

## **THE BOY AND THE MAN**

J. H. Moore

This selection begins the autobiography of Elder J.H.Moore.  
It was written in 1923.

### **My Start in Life**

Generally speaking, people get into this world about the same way, with different environment, however. My coming was on this wise; My father, David Crocket Moore, was born and grew to manhood in Rockingham County, Va. He was a well-built man, of more than ordinary strength, and possessed a good brain. His schooling was limited to reading, writing and arithmetic, and not so very much of either. In his early life he lived for a while with Elder Peter Nead, a writer and preacher of some ability, and from him received his first information regarding the faith and practice of the Church of the Brethren, of which body he and my mother later became members.

My mother, a native of Virginia, was raised and educated in town, and for her time was favored with a fair education. Leafing through her grammar, which she gave me, I noticed that the book had been pretty freely used. Her name was Sarah Will, but in her girlhood days she was known as Sally Will. She used to relate to her children, how one of her boy friends in the grammar class, would now and then tease her by saying, I Sally Will love, you Sally Will love, he Sally Will loves." Mother was not only blessed with a strong body, but she had a splendid mind, and had she been favored with a college training might easily have made her mark in the world.

Father and mother were married in 1841, and five years later, April 8, 1846, I made my entrance into the world, being the second child in the family. My parents then lived in Salem, Va., not far from where Roanoke now stands. To start with, I was a frail child and

suffered so much for more than a year that the family physician decided on the use of a remedy known as "Dead Shot," kill or cure. Weak as I was, I survived the shock, but the treatment left me entirely deaf in one ear and with a life-long impediment in my speech.

My father being a painter, as well as a carpenter, was much from home. In 1849 he painted the large well-known residence erected by Elder B. F. Moomaw on his farm in Botetourt County. The house is now occupied by Elder S. Crumpacker, and in the well-preserved building may still be seen some of the painting that my father did more than seventy years ago. Though I was only four years old when I left for the West, I can recall a few of the incidents that occurred during my childhood life in Virginia. I mention only one.

My parents were from home for the day, leaving us children, three in number, in the care of Frank Will, mother's youngest brother, then not far from sixteen years old. It was late in the fall and the hickory nuts were ripe. Near where we were then living stood a hickory nut tree. Boylike, up this tree went Frank in quest of nuts. A dead limb on which he rested his weight gave way, and down he came, breaking his leg as he struck the fence. It is related that I clapped my hands in childish delight, thinking that Uncle Frank had made a big jump. I remember distinctly how men and women came running, placed Uncle Frank on a white sheet, and strong men bore him to the house.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the work of the Lord. Requirements are strict. The prospect must be a child of God, washed in the Blood of the Lamb. The prospect must be filled with the Holy Ghost. No cries of, "What is in it for me?" like with earthly employment. Those that serve the Lord must be conscious of the souls of others. They must be in tune with God, in prayer and in God's Word daily. Their main goal: the increase and edification of God's Kingdom here on earth. As Jesus said to His disciples in John, chapter 20: "Peace be unto you: as my father hath sent me, even so send I you."

If God has given you the peace which passes all understand-

ing, I serve notice to you this day that you have an obligation to share your salvation with others. It is more than voluntary. It is compulsory. May God help us to share our faith with others.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

## OBITUARY

### BOYD WYATT

Bro. Boyd Wyatt, son of John Andrew Wyatt and Mary Etta (Boyd) Wyatt, was born November 25, 1910, in Kerman, California. His family moved to Chowchilla, California where they dairy farmed and raised row crops for many years. He married Lela Blanche Bashor, January 26, 1936. They continued farming and raised their children in this area. The summer of 1956, the family camped up at Fresno Dome with Rudy Cover's family, where Dad worked for Rudy in the timber. "An enjoyable time." In 1957 the family moved to Beaumont, California where Bro. and Sis. Nelson Winter had lived since 1925 and wished and prayed for many years for a church to be built there. Dad helped Donald Ecker build what is known as the Winterhaven Church in Cherry Valley. The family moved back to Chowchilla in 1960 and Dad continued farming until it was sold in 1965. The family then moved to Modesto where they lived until 1970. Dad then bought five acres of almonds in Hughson. They lived there until 1984, and then moved to Waterford, California.

He loved working with wood, making various items which the family treasures. His last project was making airplanes out of pop cans, to keep busy. This he continued after he became blind.

Dad was a charter member of the Dunkard Brethren Church and has been a deacon since 1952.

On Saturday, August 28, 1999, he passed away at his home. He was 88 years, 9 months and 3 days of age.

Surviving and left to honor his life, his wife Lela of 63 years, a daughter, Blanche and her husband Dale Newman of Waterford, California, a son, Ronald and his wife Irene of Marysville, Washing-



ton, a son, John of Waterford, California and a daughter, Mary and her husband Ernest Yoder of Hutchinson, Kansas. Nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Dad was well loved by his family and friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents and a brother, Oakley Wyatt.

Services were held at Salas Brothers Funeral Chapel, Modesto, California. Elder Henry Walker, officiating. Interment at Lakewood Memorial Park, Hughson, California. Elder Hayes Reed, officiating.

We want to thank you for your cards of comfort, encouragement and especially for your prayers in our behalf.

The Wyatt Family

### GOD'S LOVING PROMISE

God hath not promised

Skies always blue,

Flower-strewn pathways

All our lives through.

God hath not promised

Sun without rain,

Joy without sorrow,

Peace without pain.

God hath not promised

We shall not know

Toil and temptation,

Trouble and woe.

He hath not told us

We shall not bear

Many a burden,

Many a care.

But God hath promised

Strength for the day,

Rest for the laborer,

Light for the way,

Grace for the trials,  
Help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy,  
Undying love.

### EMMA FREED

Sister Emma Frances Freed was born near Cridders, Virginia, September 11, 1903. She died September 23, 1999, at Banning, California at the age of 96 years and 12 days.

She married Jesse Howard Freed in 1925. He died June 3, 1981. They lived at various places in West Virginia and Maryland before moving to California in 1955. She was a homemaker. She provided a home for various grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a member of the Winterhaven Dunkard Brethren Church the past twenty-five years.

She is survived by one son, Charles, Cherry Valley, California; eight daughters, Goldie Dove, Cherry Valley, California; Sara Cookman, Palm Desert, California; Ada Mann, Ocala, Florida; Sally Lutz, Gathersburg, Maryland; Betty Allen, Muldrow, Oklahoma; Edna Franchino, Banning, California; Jessie Toussaint, Muldrow, Oklahoma and Dottie Campbell, Tacoma, Washington; thirty-three grandchildren, sixty-seven great-grandchildren, and eleven great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by three brothers, Russell Sirk of Mount Aire, Maryland, Warren and Herman Sirk also of Maryland and one sister, Bertie Slick of Maryland.

Besides her husband she was preceded in death by a daughter, Rebecca Frye.

Graveside services were held September 29, 1999, at the Mountain View Cemetery, Beaumont, California by Elder Milton Cook.

### MEETING NOTICES

October 3-10 - Revival Meeting, Plevna, Indiana

October 8-17 - Revival Meeting, Lititz, Pennsylvania

November 18-20 - Leadership Conference, Dallas Center, Iowa

## LOVEFEAST NOTICES

October 23 - Englewood, Ohio  
October 31 - Bethel, Pennsylvania  
November 6 - Pleasant Home, California  
November 6 - Pleasant Ridge, Ohio  
November 7 - Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania  
November 14 - Lititz, Pennsylvania

## NEWS ITEMS

### THANK YOU

I want to express my deepest appreciation for all the phone calls, visits, flowers, gifts, prayers and cards; especially for the card signed by those attending the California General Conference! My four by-pass surgery went extremely well and I want to give God all the praise, honor and glory for my rapid recovery. Thank you, dear Brothers and Sisters, for holding me up at the throne of grace.

In His Love,

Brother Joseph C. Stump

### MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGES

The telephone area code for Brother Ronald Marks has changed to 231. The address of Bro. Jeremiah Johnson is 1773 N. 136th Avenue, Hart MI 49420. His telephone number is 231-873-2010. Please make these changes in the February 1999 issue of the Bible Monitor.

### PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord Willing, Lovefeast will be held at the Pleasant Ridge Congregation on November 6, 1999. You are welcome, please come expecting a blessing.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1999

November 7 - Betrayal, Denial, And The Sanhedrin Trial - Luke



22:47-71.

1. Why did Judas chose to betray Jesus with a kiss?
2. What caused Peter to deny that he knew Jesus?

November 14 - From Pilate To Herod And Back Again - Luke 23:1-25.

1. Of what was Jesus accused as He stood trial?
2. Why did Pilate yield to the demands of the mob?

November 21 - THANKSGIVING - Psalm 136.

1. Why should we give thanks to God?
2. How often should we give thanks to God?

November 28 - Jesus Is Crucified - Luke 23:26-43.

1. Why did Jesus ask God the Father to forgive those who were crucifying Him?
2. What did Jesus mean, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise"?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1999**

November 7 - Commandments - Ex. 20:1-26, Matt. 19:17-22, I John 5:1-3.

1. How is it possible to keep all the commandments and still not be perfect before God?
2. What commandments did Jesus institute in the New Testament that even go beyond the Ten Commandments?

November 14 - Come And Dine - Luke 14:16-24, John 21:10-13.

1. What has Jesus prepared for us to dine on today?
2. When is this meal served?

November 21 - THANKSGIVING - Psalm 107:1-20, I Tim. 4:1-8.

1. For what should we give thanks to God?
2. What are proper methods of thanking God?

November 28 - The Lame Man - Acts 3:1-12.

1. In whose name was the healing performed?
2. How did the lame man thank God for his healing?

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# BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 11

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## PRAISE TO GOD

Praise to God, immortal praise,  
For the love that crowns our days!  
Bounteous source of ev'ry joy,  
Let thy praise our tongues employ.

For the blessings of the field,  
For the stores the gardens yield;  
For the fruits in full supply,  
Ripened 'neath the summer sky;

Flocks that whiten all the plain;  
Yellow sheaves of ripened grain;  
Clouds that drop their fatt'ning dews;  
Suns that temp'rate warmth diffuse;

All that spring, with bounteous hand,  
Scatters o'er the smiling land;  
All that lib'ral autumn pours  
From her rich, o'erflowing stores;

These to thee, my God, we owe,  
Source whence all our blessings flow;  
And for these my soul shall raise  
Grateful vows and solemn praise.

-Mrs. Anna L. Barbauld

## EVER A THANKFUL PEOPLE

As we approach the year 2000, there are many dire predictions of various calamities. We can be thankful as uncertain times lie ahead of us that we can still lift up our voices in praise and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father. We may not know what the future holds, but we do know Who holds the future and will care for His own.

Thanksgiving Day gives us an opportunity to consider all the blessings, opportunities and gifts that we have received in the past from God. Christians, even under persecution and suffering, have been a thankful people. When times were difficult around them, Christians could take the long view and see the blessed Home awaiting them. They could be thankful, when others were in despair. When men around them were cursing God for unpleasant situations, Christians could joyfully praise God. Because Christians realize that this world and this life are not the total of their existence, they can accept the horrors that may come against them.

We should find it even easier to be thankful, since we are not under the persecution and suffering that many of our ancestors faced. We are well situated. In fact, we are so well-situated that it may be more of a danger to us than persecutions were to our ancestors. Perhaps, because we have been so well blessed temporally, physically and materially, we have forgotten how to be the thankful people that we should be.

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### THE BIBLE MONITOR

### NOVEMBER 1999

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As we pause, for what should we be thankful? Are we thankful for the daily blessings that come to us so effortlessly? Are we thankful for the deeper blessings that touch our Spiritual main-springs? We need to be thankful for all things.

What has this year brought to each of us that causes us to thank God? What need was cared for that could only have been through God's provision? Each reader will find his or her own event that he or she is especially thankful for at this particular Thanksgiving season.

As we look back, we might consider some of the events that are important to us. As we consider this dying century, we can think of many blessings. There have been inventions and discoveries which have affected our lives, to make them easier and more enjoyable. Many advances in the medical field have made our lives healthier and given us longer, more productive lives. Within this century there have been many changes in the religious landscape. Amongst the changes has been the continuation of basic Brethren beliefs through the organization of the Dunkard Brethren Church in 1926. We can be thankful for her witness and testimony. She must prepare to accomplish greater things for her Lord.

The past millenium has produced many changes. The world of 1000 AD would have been a far different world than the world of 2000 AD. The "Dark Ages" were in full swing at the beginning of the millenium. As the years moved slowly toward the mid-point of the millenium, great events were about to unfold. The Protestant Reformation challenged the dead orthodoxy of the Roman Church. Although the Reformation began well, it did not go all the way. The Anabaptists went further in their struggle to re-establish the primitive church. When tempered with Pietism, a new Spiritual movement with an organized, disciplined body arose. These were the Brethren who organized in 1708 at Schwarzenau. The Brethren came to the New World, with others of the persecuted and troubled of Europe. They followed the course of the American Empire from coast to coast.

Before our present millenium, nearly two thousand years ago, we find that for which we should be most thankful. Our Heavenly Father has given to the human family, the greatest Gift ever. He



gave for our benefit His only Begotten Son. Jesus lived amongst men to call them to God. He died to save men unto God. He resurrected to justify men before God. What greater gift could He have given than this offer of eternal life?

Because God has given us the opportunity to have eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ, we can look not only backward at all we should be thankful for, we can also look to the future. We can look forward with confidence and thankfulness as we know the God who has provided so well for us in the past can also provide for us in the future. As we pass this landmark, let us be prepared to move forward that His church may faithfully represent Him to man in the coming years.

Let us be not only thankful for the past favors from God, but let us move confidently forward into the new, challenging frontiers before us. Knowing the same God who led our forefathers in great deeds of Spiritual bravery, will also help us.

Let us ever be a thankful people.

M.C.Cook

## **THE HEALING OF A LAME MAN**

Acts 3:1-26

On a routine visit to the temple one afternoon at 3:00 P.M., Peter suddenly "got enough" of seeing a lame man lying at the gate asking for alms. To see people who were blind or lame sitting or lying in places where lots of people passed by was very common. Jews were obligated to help other Jews who were in these situations. But on this day, something very out-of-the-ordinary happened! Peter fastened his eyes on the man, and asked for his attention. And the lame man listened, and looked at Peter and John, giving them his attention.

What suddenly came over Peter? Did he do this under his own power and imagination, or under the power and direction of the Holy Spirit? Did he suddenly remember the words of Jesus; "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; be-

cause I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." (John 14:12-14)?

In any case, Peter boldly proclaimed, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." And the results were immediate! Peter took the lame man by the right hand, and immediately his feet and ankle bones were healed, and he leaped up, and was able to walk again!

Note carefully the reaction of the man who was healed: "And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping and praising God." That's pretty neat! And it is a good example of the reaction we should have for what God has done for us! (Or are we too ashamed to publicly praise God?)

This reminds me of a recent prayer meeting at the Shrewsbury Congregation. The weather had been very dry for a long period of time, and the crops were withering. A number of storms had passed through the region but southern York County had received nothing but a lot of hot wind. The Governor of Pennsylvania declared an emergency drought condition, and everyone was supposed to take rather austere steps to conserve water. Some of those gathered that evening at the prayer meeting actually had the tenacity to pray for rain. And later that night, a thunderstorm went through, yielding nearly an inch of rain! Praise God!

In verses 12-26, we have a record of Peter's second great sermon. In this instance, Peter was preaching to the crowd at the temple, who were witnessing the joy of the lame man who had just been healed. Peter immediately gave the praise, honor, and credit to the Name of Jesus Christ. And he preached just as boldly as could be! He did not quibble around! He told the crowd that they were responsible for killing Jesus, but that since they did it in ignorance, they could find forgiveness if they would repent!

Peter preached the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He told them Jesus went to Heaven, but that He was coming back to earth again someday at the "times of restitution of all things."

**Summary Thought . . .** Where did Peter get his boldness? Was that boldness just for him, or can we have that kind of holy boldness for Jesus Christ today? Is it something that is generated just by emotion and a certain mind-set and a whole bunch of enthusiasm, or is it something that is given through the Holy Spirit by God?

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

### **“BASICS”**

Luke 10:25-28, “And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.”

Romans 10:9, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

Are these half truths? Are we really practicing these basics? How do we show love for God? In Matthew 25:35 Jesus said, “For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:” Could not we add I needed a friend and ye did whatever I needed. “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

I have visited all the churches in my area except the Samoan. I was much impressed by one that sent us a letter thanking us for coming and inviting us back. If you were treated the same way as you treat other visitors and strangers, would you come back?

Over fifty years ago I remember a man staggering across the vacant lot in back of our place. We would say there goes a drunk. He was singing, “Nobody loves me, nobody cares for me at all.” A drunk usually says what is on his mind. I think it is sad not to be



wanted or loved. He is to be pitied.

I can think of six people who have stopped going to church, but their church did not even know it. One moved away, four were dead. I attended two of their funerals. Not one member of their church was there. They were members of theirs for at least forty-five years that we knew them and were quite vocal in their belief. They had an out of town minister to conduct the service. Same minister for both the man and wife. They died about three months apart.

I have been to several churches where I do not feel like going back. I went to one recently, where no one spoke to me or gave me much of a chance to speak to them.

Of course Jesus said after washing the disciples' feet, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." It's good we practice as much of the Bible as we understand it. Do we always practice the basics? God so loved the world.

Brother Walter C. Myers

## ONCE UPON A TIME

Once upon a time there was a young sister who did not have many friends. She was not invited to go shopping or to spend the night with the others. She spent most of her time alone or with her family and did not have much to look forward to. After church she stood alone because she was too shy to join in with the other young people. And she felt unwanted.

Once upon a time there was a young brother who lived alone. He could not cook much and so he ate pizza most nights. Most of the people his age were married or worked long hours. He felt isolated at church as if no one cared. So he stopped going to church on Wednesday night and no one even noticed. No one called to say they had missed him at church or to inquire if he had been sick. So he stopped going to church on Sunday night too and still no one cared. And he was lonely and discouraged.

Once upon a time, there were two widows. One was young with a small boy. She could not teach him to do the things a daddy

would and her car was making a "funny" noise. The older widow had arthritis and she could not do very much. Her windows needed to be washed and some loose boards in her front step needed to be fixed. And they felt helpless.

Once upon a time, there was an elderly brother whose wife was in a nursing home. He could not see or hear very well anymore and so he could not drive. He could not go see his wife any time he wanted. He was totally dependent upon others. His voice was crackly and could not sing much. He could not teach Sunday school anymore. And he felt useless.

Once upon a time there was a young family who stood at church, looked around and saw so many needs. After they were home they talked about the needs and who would fill them. Who would encourage the discouraged? Who would befriend the friendless? Who would find ways to make others feel loved and needed? Who would run errands? Who would cook meals? Who could make calls to see if others were sick? Who would wash windows and fix steps? Who would teach little boys how to fish and throw a ball? Who had time to do all these things.

The young man and his wife had a rather large family and the father worked in town. They felt they did not have enough time to fill all the needs. After they had spent time in prayer about the needs, the Spirit moved in their lives and they decided that with God's help they would do what they could.

As the mother fixed meals, she made a little extra and froze it to take to the older man. When she went to take the food to him, she dropped her teenage boy at the elderly widow's house to fix the step. On the way home, she picked up the little boy who had no father. Her boys played ball with him and took him to fish in their pond. His delight at catching a fish made all the children glad they had spent time with him.

The mother had a get together for the young people and invited the shy young sister to come early and help her with the preparations. She and her daughters spent time talking with her and making her feel like she was important to them. When time came for the games, they saw to it that the young sister was included. When the others found out that she was only shy, they tried to make her

feel comfortable. And she was happy.

The father called the young brother. He told him that they had missed him at church several times and that he had been in their prayers. They invited him over one night a week for supper. After all, what was one more place at their table? He was so appreciative of the fellowship and food. And he was encouraged.

They got a group of young people together to visit the elderly brother. He was a very good story teller and he told stories about his youth and about the way the church was back then. He told how hard it had been in the winter to get to church when the snow was deep, but how important it had been to get there. He left them with a lasting impression of dedication to God. And they were all blessed.

One afternoon the young family went to wash the elderly widow's windows. With several children helping they were through very quickly. So they took the extra time and stopped by to see about the "funny" noise in the young widow's car. The man and his son soon had it fixed. And they were relieved.

Once upon a time there was a church that was a little lukewarm, but the Spirit moved in the lives of a few willing ones. As they made a difference in the lives of others, those brothers and sisters began to make a difference in the lives of still others. Soon the whole church felt revived and felt new love and motivation to live God's word to the fullest. That love for God and His word spread to the community and soon the church was full of enthusiastic believers at every service.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men..." Gal. 6:10. We all have opportunities to do good and we are all busy, but these children of God were blessed by a few people doing what they could. A card, a letter, a phone call, a little conversation at church, a little bit of your time used for the good of others can make such a difference in someone's life. "...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40.

Sister Jolene Andrews



## **“IN EVERY THING GIVE THANKS”**

James D. Zaiger

We live in a world of blame. If you don't believe it look at the ads in the media and the yellow pages full of anxious attorneys ready to file lawsuits to restore your every loss. In this world of blame, anything bad that happens must be someone's fault. The blame game that society plays today is to pin the blame on someone else and collect damages in the thousands and millions of dollars. It has become almost like a lottery for the common man. Each is waiting for their turn to collect their share of dollars in this lottery of blame and lawsuits. Of course, society as a whole loses in the end. Sadly, this attitude has permeated our society to the point that it almost seems normal.

We are tremendously grateful that our Brethren long ago refused to play the blame game. To be a nonresistant people, and not engage in the practice of filing lawsuits to recover our losses, has long been a hallmark of the Anabaptist people with whom we share a common heritage. Our Lord clearly said, “resist not evil” (Mt. 5:39), and yet the vast majority of His professing followers have found themselves caught up in this society of blame, resistance and suing. In fact, we are hard pressed to name any group, other than the plain people, who follow the Lord's teachings of defenselessness, nonresistance and non-lawing. We believe that at the root of these principles, as a part of their foundation, lies the thought of *thankfulness in all things*.

*“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”* With these words in I Thessalonians 5:18, the apostle Paul summarizes the thought of thankfulness for the Christian. We are to give thanks for everything—not only the good that we desire, but everything. This thought of *thankfulness in every thing* goes to some of the greatest depths of Christian thought. Men of all ages have thanked their gods for the good supposedly received from their hands, but here the Christian is to thank his God for everything, both the good and the bad. How can this be?

Much has been written about the suffering of the righteous and why bad things happen to good people. Usually the thought turns

on the principle that what has happened is really for an overall good. This is surely true. In Romans 8:28, the apostle writes "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." These and other verses provide comfort and allow us to see a purpose and accept a loss that otherwise would be unbearable. Indeed, this faith in God's purposes helps us, in our infirmities, to bear these losses. Immediately prior, in verses 26 and 27, the apostle explains that, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

To the world, the plain people are difficult to understand. It's a riddle to them that the plain people will give up their rights, not resist being taken advantage of, prefer others rather than themselves, and place themselves under the counsel and discipline of a church body. The interest of the world in these different folk is shown by the many newspaper pictures, articles and books about them.

In explaining to his readers this seeming riddle of the plain people, one of the more prominent writers on the Anabaptist people writes that the key to understanding the Anabaptists lies in understanding the concept of *Gelassenheit*. This German word, roughly translated, means "submission, yielding to a higher authority or accepting one's place or lot." Literally, it means the attitude of allowing. For this writer, understanding the principle of *Gelassenheit* enables onlookers to make sense of nonresistance, self-denial, submission to the church, humility and simplicity.

We agree with the writer's thought. However, we are a people of simple faith and we would like to simplify this concept a bit. We would like to submit that in reality, *gelassenheit* is nothing more than the belief that *in everything we are to give thanks*. The reason we give thanks is because our lives are the result of *the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us*. The difference that the world notices in the plain people comes from the fact that we truly believe

and practice submitting ourselves to God's will. Because we believe it, we practice it and the result shows in our lives. This resulting life has become the riddle of the plain people.

A ministering brother once said that the principles and practices of God's people are tied together in supporting each other. Much as God created the complex human body with each part necessary to the others, so He established the principles of the Body of Christ to complement and support each other. Each principle and practice provides support and builds upon the others. They fit together like a well-framed house—the floors level, the walls straight and everything in proper relationship and complementing the rest.

In considering these basic doctrines, there is another riddle that we would like to consider, together with its relationship to thankfulness. Again, we believe that it goes down to our basic beliefs and understandings. Our Brethren have often held that there is an observed relationship between plainness of dress and nonresistance. History has repeatedly shown that those groups who lose the plain dress and blend with the world in their appearance invariably have lost nonresistance. At first glance, one would wonder why these are tied together. Again, it seems like a riddle. To the casual observer, nonresistance and nonconformity in dress don't seem to be obviously or logically related. Yet, time and again, churches that lose plain dress have lost nonresistance.

To answer this riddle of plain dress and nonresistance, we believe that we must get down to the basic concept that supports both. In our view, that basic common principle is the understanding of the two kingdoms—the world and the body of Christ. Understanding the two kingdoms, the brethren realize the need for separation from the world. Christians who dress plain express their resistance to worldliness and their separation from the draft of worldly society in their everyday living and dress. Their plain dress reminds them of their separation and reinforces the inner principle of the two-kingdom concept. Only those with these reinforced inner principles seem to be able to resist the draft of the world and maintain the true Christian stand on nonresistance.

We believe that *thankfulness in everything* is one of the basic Christian doctrines that helps us maintain our separation from the



world. *Thankfulness in everything* is, in reality, an understanding that in all things we are subject to God. Further, it is a conviction that God's will is to be our absolute standard. It is we who must conform and accept God's will through the teachings of His Son, Jesus Christ. Regardless of our desires, regardless of what seems right to our human reasoning, we accept God's clear teachings as the right way for our lives. While only reasonable, this is not the case with the worldly Christian. So often, for this type of Christianity, God must content Himself to the desires and wants of the believer. In effect, God has been defined by man. As the servant beguiled Eve, men have become as God, defining for themselves good and evil.

Let's take, for example, the divorce question. Divorce is rampant in our society today, even among professed Christians. Again, the Anabaptist churches stand almost alone in a strict disallowance of divorce or marital separation. It's a clear teaching. Our Lord clearly taught that divorce is wrong and that to divorce and to remarry is to commit adultery. Many Christians will admit this but they still justify divorce. Much the same could be said of the woman's head covering and the woman's role within the church. In these days of woman's rights, our plain churches stand in stark contrast to mainstream religion. In time, we may be subject to real persecution in a society that rejects our values.

Again, why are the plain churches different? Is it not because of the submission of their personal desires to God's will? Our Brethren believe that it's not what we want, but what God commands, that is supreme. The mind of the Brethren that accepts the goodness and tragedies of life as God's will, is well positioned to accept and practice His unchanging principles. Time and again, this absolute submission to God's unchanging will appears as the difference between the Anabaptist teachings of the Brethren and the mainstream doctrines of professed Christianity. God's people will be thankful, and faithful, because they are submitted to His will.

One of our ministering Brethren has said that he believes it will become a trial of our faith to stand in the midst of a modern Christianity and say that all things are of God's will. Yet we believe that this *thankfulness in all things* will be a key to maintaining the true

faith of Jesus Christ in these last dark days. It's a plain and simple teaching and yet its implications are powerful and profound. May we always be found faithful. *"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

Selected from the November 1999 issue of The Vindicator

## DECISIONS AND MOTIVES

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31.

Each new day, as we arise from our beds and bow before the Lord in prayer, may He remind us of this verse of scripture, "Do all to the glory of God." Each one reading this, who has named the Name of Christ as his Saviour, needs to remember this important instruction.

In analyzing the problems that have befallen us as children of God, we must conclude that in our lives we must put God first. Before we do anything or make a decision we must consider: "Does it honor and glorify God? Can we ask God to bless it? Is God in it?" Clearly, we must obey God rather than men. If we do things to please men only, then when men change we will change to accommodate them.

Do all to the glory of God. Wherever you go, whatever you do, do it for God and His glory. Serve Him with gladness. Our life, our testimony, and our worship should be Biblical and Godly.

There will always be those who seek an easier way. We must not become discouraged when others choose not to follow the Lord as we do. We must let God be the judge. To those who think that the Christian way is hard, Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." It is truly a joy and pleasure to serve the Lord. If the way is hard it is because we make it so. Jesus promised us the Holy Ghost to guide and teach us. We often want our own way, instead of God's. The Holy Scriptures and the Holy Ghost in our life are a combination that will never let us down, allowing us to make God's way our way. His will becomes our will, and there is no conflict. After all, when we call upon the Lord in repentance He

saves us from all our sins. He makes our crooked paths straight. There is a lot of superficial religion out there. It does not go very deep. If a true heart experience has occurred, it will start with the heart, and then manifest itself outwardly.

Why do we do the things we do? Is it because we seek to glorify God? If so, God will bless us. If we seek power or advantage over others, then we will lose in the end. God will deal with us. If our goal is selfish, we will not be blessed of God.

Do all to the glory of God.

Under the shadow of thy throne,

The saints have dwelt secure;

Sufficient is thine arm alone,

And our defense is sure.

-Isaac Watts

Brethren Hymnal #5

Psalm 90:1, "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations."

Respectfully submitted:

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## IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD

Ron Cable

The path lies before us: straight, narrow, rocky, up hills and down into valleys, through mud and rain, hot desert sand, ice and snow, with travelers slipping, sliding, falling, rising, crawling, walking, running; crying in sorrow, laughing with joy, smiling with understanding, looking with concern, reaching to rescue. Through it all, the hands, feet, and voices of our loved ones are there, their faces shining with the image of Christ, a reflection of the distant vision on the far horizon. On both sides lie the world, taunting us with its alluring and enticing gadgets and pleasures. Occasionally one of



our number veers off the path onto a pleasant avenue and cruises away, following the lust of the eyes and flesh, disappearing into the crowd. Sometimes there are sharp words and disagreements and misunderstandings, leaving one of our number veering off into a lonely lane that dead-ends in bitterness. Despite all this, we plod on, looking for them at the intersections, but going on in hope toward our vision, the image of Christ awaiting us at the end, welcoming us with salvation and eternal life with Him!

*Continue or persevere* means to *persist in an action, a purpose, despite obstacles*. In it we see the word *severe*, a definite strictness. Synonyms include *doggedness, steadfastness, tenacity*. *Tenacity* has the original meaning of *adhesiveness*, as in glue. I think this gives us a clear picture of how close to "My Word" we are to "stick."

I John starts with, "*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard...*" Yes, most of us have heard from our beginnings. Do we continue to hear? "*...Which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon...*" Haven't we seen Jesus through our parents, our brethren and sisters, and certainly in the Word? "*...And our hands have handled, of the Word of life.*" We have held our brothers' hands in greeting, in sorrow, in understanding. We have handled our brother's feet in washing, lost in the vision of Jesus' washing His disciples' feet in love. Yes, we must say, His life has been manifested unto us and continues to be. Praise the Lord! (I John 1:2.)

"...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31,32) There is the condition of *if* we continue in His Word. There is concentration, study, research, meditation, communication, effort, work. In this way we learn to *know* the Word, to memorize, to understand meanings and implications. His Word is Truth and the Truth sets us free! We become adhered to His Word which makes us free of ourselves! (Jo. 8:36; II Th. 3:1; I Pe. 2:15-16)

It is ironic, but we are our biggest obstacle. Getting beyond ourselves is the most difficult task God has given us. We struggle, we despair, but only when we give up will we get anywhere! We must totally give up our lives to Jesus. We must become *nothing*,

in order to become *something* for Him. To do this we must deal with our past and our present, and determine our future. "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps." (Pr. 16:9) It is a matter of deep critical, painful self-examination, surrendering all to God. It is a great help to spill our heart out on paper, to get it out in front of us in print. Then it is also a great help to confide in someone. Sometimes it is better to choose someone removed from our situation, unbiased, but with the same Gospel understanding.

So, to be free indeed, we must *know* the truth, but this must go beyond just knowing it, it must permeate our inner man, regenerating it into the attributes of Jesus, "That ye walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, *being fruitful in every good work*, and increasing in the knowledge of God,...to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel..." (Col. 1:10,22,23) To be fruitful in every good work is the purpose of being free in Jesus. But we are to be "clothed with humility," (I Pe. 5:5) because it is Christ *working in us* and we have nothing to boast about. Remember, we are free from our old selves through the power of Christ.

This brings us to some questions to ask ourselves. *Am I portraying the love of Christ?* Read Romans 8:35-39. *Do I speak the truth in love?* (Eph. 4:15) (Are we "growing up"?) *Do I try to understand my brother;* do I "*walk a mile in his moccasins?*" (Phil. 1:27; Col. 3:9-14) "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it." "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have *wrought*, ("to earn by working"—Vines expository dictionary) but that we receive a full reward." (II John 6,8) The Word of God is what we have heard from the beginning whereby we have obtained our salvation through faith, not of works. But we see here that there is something to be earned by working: a full reward! Our faith, which developed our fervent love of the Gospel and of one another; compelled us to full obedience and the work of the Gospel. (I Cor. 3:12-14, II Thess. 2:16,17)

"Continue" implies movement, moving onward. We can only move onward if we are free. A man in bondage is bound and can

only move within his bounds which is himself. A man in the freedom of Christ finds himself liberated of himself and in the liberty of Christ. "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, **and continueth therein**, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of **the work**, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:25) There are also bounds in the liberty of Christ, but we are freed from sin and self, transformed into the glorious liberty of Christ. "Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." (Rom. 8:21)

Jesus said, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." (John 15:9) The Hebrew writer said, "Let brotherly love continue." (Heb. 13:1) Paul said, "...if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." (I Tim. 2:15) He was speaking of women, but this certainly pertains to men also. Paul also states, "...that the truth of the gospel might continue with you." (Gal. 2:5) Certain brethren had come in unawares with the purpose to undermine the liberty of Christ with the bondage of the law. He exhorts us to remain steadfast in the truth of the Gospel, refusing to turn even a little to the right or the left. "If ye continue in My Word."

To continue faithfully will be to suffer many things and to endure tribulation (See Acts 14:22.) It's not an easy road, but it's the road that Christ has left for us, and He has made it passable through His Spirit who empowers us to continue "Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (II Peter 3:4) We see changes in the world that indicate His second coming is near. His promise is sure; His time is different from our time, but we see signs of that time nearing. "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book." "...my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:7, 12,14) "**Continue** in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." (Col. 4:2)

Selected from the October 1999 issue of The Pilgrim



## RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

We realize that we have dealt with this subject before as a part of another article and perhaps as a subject itself. We feel constrained to deal with it once again. It is our desire that the Holy Spirit would guide and God would be praised. We acknowledge our weak and fallible wisdom.

Down through the centuries the place that the Word of God holds in the lives of individuals and their understanding of it has been strongly debated. The Holy Scriptures would appear to uphold the fact that during the time of the First Century Church all of its members were encouraged to study the Scriptures for themselves. This, of course, was primarily what we now consider to be the Old Testament, although there seems to be historical evidence that the writings of the Apostles were also accepted as Holy Scripture in time.

Shortly after the death of the apostles it became popular to allow only the church leaders to interpret Scripture. This soon deteriorated to the point where those considered laymen were discouraged from reading the Scriptures and finally, in some instances, were forbidden to read the Scriptures.

What is known as the Reformation came out of this situation, as most of us know. However, there seems to be evidence that the Anabaptist movement, which heritage we share, pre-dated the Reformation. There was also a slightly different emphasis on the Word of God recognized in the Anabaptist movement. Those, whom most recognize as Protestants, correctly desired that the Word of God would be correctly understood. The Anabaptists went beyond this and taught that the Word of God should be correctly lived out.

Prior to the Reformation there were those who are commonly known, today, as the church fathers. Some church entities regarded these writings as inspired as the Holy Scriptures. While our Brethren forefathers did quote these individuals to confirm such practices as immersion baptism, we do not believe they ever put them

on the same level as Holy Scriptures.

The command to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God," is given to all believers. If we do this, in the way, we are instructed, we will be "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."

In the title that we have chosen for this article the word "rightly" has at least two possible meanings. One of these is "in a correct manner." While we have recently read an opinion that the saying, "The Bible is its best own interpreter," is in error, we still believe this saying holds great truth. While commentaries can sometimes be helpful we must remember that they are written by fallible men. The same must be said about Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias. We have already mentioned the writings of the church fathers, but would again emphasize that they were only fallible men. The only infallible interpreter of Holy Scripture is the Holy Spirit.

The other possible meaning of the word "rightly" is "in a plain manner." We are persuaded that common sense prevails in understanding most of Holy Scripture. To deny that some portions of Scripture are difficult would be to evade the issue. Symbolism versus literalism has been an issue in the church since early times and will continue to be so.

The word "dividing" comes from a root word that can also have at least two meanings. One of these is "to make a straight cut." While all of the Bible is the inspired, and we believe the infallible, Word of God, we are persuaded that we must rightly divide between the Old Testament and the New.

The other possible meaning of this word is "to dissect" which in turn means "to study carefully every part of." The Word of God is precious and should be used in a most Holy and reverent way. We must admit that some parts are easier to read than others but it would be good to read the Bible completely through at least one time.

The Bible holds the way to salvation. It is the guidebook for all Christians. Let us read it and desire that it control our life as we rightly divide the Word of Truth.

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## THE PRAYER VEIL

Paul R. Myers

God's Word clearly teaches, in the eleventh chapter of first Corinthians, the Doctrine of the Prayer Veil. God is the author of this Doctrine. The Apostle Paul wrote it as he received it. In verse 23, he said, "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you,..." This teaching did not originate in the mind of Paul, but it originated with God.

God has set all the requirements essential to salvation. I firmly believe that the prayer veil upon the heads of professed women, is highly essential to salvation. I believe that the Bible teaches that a professed women, without it, has no hope of salvation.

The Apostle Paul assigns many reasons for the prayer veil. The first is the order of headship, stated as follows: "The head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." Again, God established this headship, not man. In verse four, if a man prays or prophesies having his head covered, he dishonoreth his head. Therefore when he prays, he uncovers his head so that he does not dishonor his Christ, and also as a sign that recognizes Christ as his head, as his authority, and that he is subject unto Him.

Now, notice God's order for the woman. "Every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoreth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven." If a woman prays or prophesies with her head uncovered she dishonors her head. I believe it means herself, her man, and her Christ are all brought to dishonor because of her disobedience to the Scripture. Too, Brethren and Sisters and friends, this Scripture does not say, "All Dunkard Women" but every woman that prayeth or prophesieth regardless of what church she may be a member.

Here is my authority for the need of the prayer veil for salvation. Certainly anyone who purposely disobeys God's commandments will not enter Heaven. Certainly, those who are a dishonor to Christ will never gain the Eternal Home. It is becoming a sad time when there are remaining but a few professors of Christianity, who do believe the Scriptures. Jesus says, "If ye love me, ye will



keep my commandments." By the unveiled heads we have direct evidence of the lack of love, on the part of many so-called Christian women.

The woman that veils her head witnesses to the world that she is a believer in God's Word. That she recognizes her place in the order of headship as God ordained. She bears testimony that she has separated herself from the world. She is letting her light shine. It is a sign that she has accepted her God-appointed place, and therefore is in favor with Him. But most important of all, her veil becomes a sign of her authority to pray or prophesy. Without it, she lacks authority and therefore is completely out of place, when she attempts to worship God.

Another reason given in this Scripture for the need of the prayer veil is "Because of the Angels." Verse 10, "For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels." What part do the angels have in prayer? Heb. 1:14, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to do service for the sake of them that shall inherit salvation?" We have a wonderful example of the part angels have in the order of prayer. Daniel was a praying man. Let us notice the reading of Daniel 9:20-23, "And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God; Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou are greatly beloved: therefore understanding the matter, and consider the wisdom."

This and many other examples in God's word clearly show that the angels are sent forth in answer to prayer to minister to us. If a woman attempts to pray unveiled, thereby disregarding God's command, can she expect God to send angels to administer to her? Therefore, let her be veiled. We have another deep rooted reason in verses 13-15 for the prayer veil. "Judge in yourselves: is it comely

that a woman pray unto God uncovered? Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering."

This teaching has many implications. First, a woman is to have long hair. How long? As long as God caused it to grow. I believe that it is wrong for a woman to cut off one-half inch of her hair. According to Scripture, she has robbed herself of that much glory. If a woman's long hair is a glory to her, then for her to cut her hair is to shed herself of her glory, and the result is to bring shame upon herself. In Paul's time infamous women cut their hair; which branded them as to what they were. In this Scripture, Paul classes an unveiled praying woman in the same category as a woman that has her hair cut or is shorn. Verse 6, "For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn; but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered."

Since praying unveiled and cutting off the hair are equally disgraceful in the sight of God, we see the positive need of a woman, both keeping her hair and wearing the prayer veil. What about the woman who has cut off her hair, or a woman with long hair, but who refuses to wear the prayer veil. They both are a shame unto their head, their husband, their Christ, their God.

Possibly nothing appears more ridiculous in the sight of God than for a woman with bobbed hair to attempt to wear a prayer veil over it. She already has become a shame to Him by cutting her hair. The prayer veil will never cover the shame. It only makes matters worse. Why am I writing as I do? I believe very firmly in the need of the prayer veil, and prayer veils do not go with bobbed hair. Where the hair is cut, soon the prayer veil is forgotten, and well it should be, because once the hair is cut the prayer veil has no place.

I earnestly plead with every sister of our church that you do not cut one particle of your hair. That you never give up the wearing of the prayer veil, and that you do not settle for too small a prayer veil. Where the prayer veil is missing; it did not all come at once. They grew littler and littler, where worn less frequent and finally, discarded. When the prayer veil was laid away, the church lost her power.

When we remove essentials we are powerless.

I believe that we need to teach and preach and write on these things, lest they slip from us. I believe that one of the reasons that worldliness has crept into and even has engulfed many churches, is because they departed from the Scriptures.

I am not one bit interested in those denominations that are adding to their numbers by leaps and bounds. And are building additions to their churches, to bring more of the world in as an attraction. Why am I not interested? Because they are not obeying the Scriptures. They would not, in many instances, allow their sisters to wear the prayer veil. Their religion is a cold form, and Christ is not in it. Consequently, there is no salvation in it, either. I earnestly plead that we be consistent in our thinking and practice. There are those that contend that the hair is the covering Paul speaks about. If the hair is what he meant, there would be no need of this chapter. Neither could a person take it off, or put in on at will.

Summarizing and closing, regardless of how few denominations continue using the prayer veil, may we never discontinue. I believe it is essential and I believe it is a great source of power for the church. I believe it is a protection to our sisters, from the adversary of our soul, the Devil.

I believe that when a minister stands before his congregation, the sight of the many prayer veils is strength to him during his hour of preaching. He knows that the sisters have faith and when you are speaking to a body of believers, it is a wonderful help and blessing. Jesus said, "If ye CONTINUE in my Word, then are ye my disciples indeed." John 8:31. Pray God that we shall always continue believing in and wearing the prayer veil.

Selected from August 1, 1963, Bible Monitor

by Sister Mary Alice Carlin

## **TEENAGERS!**

Judge Phillip Gilliam of Denver recently gave some advice to the young people of his community in response to the cry of many teenagers, "What can we do...where can we go?"



"Go home!" says the judge. "Hang the stormwindows, paint the woodwork, rake the leaves, mow the lawn, wash the car, learn to cook, scrub the floors, repair the swing, build a boat, get a job, help the poor, study your lessons - and when you are through and not too tired, read a good book.

"Your parents do not owe you entertainment. Your city or town does not owe you any recreational facilities. The world does not owe you a living - you owe the world something.

"You owe it your time, and energy, so that no one will be at war, or in poverty, or sick or lonely again.

"In plain, simple words...grow up! Quit being like a cry baby. Get out of your dream world and develop a backbone - not a wish-bone - and start acting like a man or lady. You have no right to expect your parents to buy you every whim and fancy, just because selfish ego instead of common sense dominates your personality, thinking, and request. Grow up...and go home!"

Selected by Sister Fern Wolfe

## BIBLE STORIES

### THE NAME THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME

The angel Gabriel told Mary that the little boy which would be born to her was to be called Jesus. Mary may well have thought, "There is none in our family by that name; it must have a special meaning." And it does. The name "Jesus" means "Saviour." Gabriel said, "This Child is to save His people from their sins."

Every time we say the name "Jesus," we should think of it as "Saviour" and that He came to earth that you and I and everyone who will believe His word will be saved from their sins and sometime go to Heaven and live with Him forever and ever and never, never die, or get sick, or feel bad, or cry anymore. Wouldn't that be wonderful? No wonder the prophet Isaiah said that His name shall be called Wonderful. It is wonderful — the most wonderful name anyone ever was given.

The Apostle Paul said, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name..."

Here is a little verse that would be good for everyone to learn by heart:

There is a name I love to hear  
I love to sing its worth.  
It sounds like music in mine ear,  
The sweetest name on earth.

What other names or titles was Jesus called? There are over fifty. For some of them, read Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6.

Brother Rudy Cover

## **THE BOY AND THE MAN**

J. H. Moore

Going West

In the summer of 1850 the western fever took a firm hold on my parents, as well as on others. Father sold what little property he had, procured two horses and fitted up a covered wagon for a long trip. Into this he loaded his family and the few household goods for which room could be found. Other parties fitted up wagons in like manner, nearly one dozen in all, and on a set day, probably near the middle of August, relatives and friends gathered for the last sad farewells. Many of them were to part never more to meet. There came the last tender embraces, and then amid tears and sobs, followed by hundreds of prayers, the long string of covered wagons moved slowly up the winding road, and, as they entered the hills, disappeared forever.

The trip was a long one, lasting six weeks. Counting children and all, there were not far from fifty souls in the company. Every evening the company went into camp. Meals were cooked and served by the roadside. Some of the people slept in their wagons; others in tents and some on the ground under their wagons. At no time in those pioneer days were the roads, at their best, anything to boast of, and such a trip was hard on men, women and beasts. By and by Woodford County, Illinois was reached. To this part of the State, two years before, came James R. Gish and my uncle,

Philip A. Moore, a young man who had served in the Mexican War.  
On the Broad Prairie

Here we were on the broad, untamed prairies of central Illinois. As far as the eye could reach there were vast stretches of comparatively level land, covered with a heavy growth of grass, with only an occasional small belt of timber. The scene was grand, and, to a people who had been reared among the mountains, it was inspiring. Father bought a small piece of land, eighty acres, and on it erected a log house that he had purchased of some party in the woods a few miles away. The house had to be torn down in order to be moved. Into this single-room house, not over twenty feet square, father moved his family. Here began some of the experiences that naturally enter into the life of a boy on the frontier.

Our home was out on the broad, wild prairie. There were no fences. A team could be driven for miles in most any direction. A portion of the year wolves would howl around our house the whole night. Often, when father was away from home, mother would close the door to the chicken house as early in the evening as possible, get us children in, lock the door and permit no one to venture out until morning. A life of this sort was trying on a mother, left alone with her children.

## OBITUARY

### VERLING JAMES WOLFE

Verling James (Jim) Wolfe of Shartelsville, Pennsylvania died September 2, 1999, in a house moving accident. Services were held at Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church, Bethel, Pennsylvania. Burial was at the Frystown Cemetery.

Jim was the husband of Joanna M. (Hill) Weaver Wolfe.

Born August 3, 1955, in Lebanon, Pennsylvania he was the son of Verling H. and Fern E. (Kegerreis) Wolfe of Bethel, Pennsylvania.

Jim was part owner of Verling H. Wolfe and Company, Bethel, Pennsylvania where he worked for twenty-eight years.



He is also survived by a daughter Karleen P. Wolfe, Evans, Colorado and three sons, DeWayne J. Wolfe, Bethel, Pennsylvania, Grant A. Wolfe, Kutztown, Pennsylvania and Jairus H. Wolfe, LaSalle, Colorado. Also surviving are two stepsons; Shane L. Weaver, Phoenix, Arizona and Lance A. Duncan, Shartelsville, Pennsylvania, two stepdaughters; Jessica M. and Jennifer S. Weaver both of Mohrsville, Pennsylvania, also a step-granddaughter.

Also surviving are a brother, Darryl Wolfe, Bethel, Pennsylvania; three sisters, Anita Y. (Wolfe) Aungst, Clearville, Pennsylvania, Cynthia L. (Wolfe) Sweitzer, Felton, Pennsylvania, Sylvia N. (Wolfe) Noecker, Bernville, Pennsylvania; and a former wife, Karen L. (Litfin-Wolfe) Kohl, Evans, Colorado.

We want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you, Brethren, Sisters in the faith and all our friends for helping to bear our grief at the loss of our son. What a blessing and comfort it is to have such spiritual support at a time like this. Friday evening we received another comfort when the children told us to come outside and see the beautiful rainbow over our house. Continue to pray for us and may God bless each and every one of you for caring.

Love and prayers  
The Verling Wolfe Family

## NEWS ITEMS

### BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

September 19 through September 25, Bro. Dennis St. John was with us for our fall Revival Meetings. He brought us spirit filled messages and as a result five young boys gave their hearts to the Lord. May we all pray for our young people that they may remain true to their vows. We owe it to them to help guide them through the years of their youth. Continue to pray for us as a congregation that we may remain faithful to our God and vows which we have made to Him.

Sister Fern Wolfe, Cor.

**THANK YOU**

We want to thank the many friends who remembered us with cards, letters and gifts on our 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless you for the many words of well wishes and remembrances of past years. Thanks so much!

Brother Harley and Sister Marjorie Flory

**THANK YOU**

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, comforting letters, telephone calls for my 97th birthday. I appreciated every one. May God bless you all.

In His love,  
Sister Clara Gunderman

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER  
1999**

December 5 - His Death, Burial, And Resurrection - Luke 23:44-24:12.

1. Explain the symbolism in the veil of the temple being rent in the midst.
2. What do you suppose Peter thought had happened at the empty sepulchre?

December 12 - Christ On The Emmaus Road - Luke 24:13-32.

1. Why did the two on the road to Emmaus not recognize Jesus?
2. What opened the eyes of the two disciples after Jesus had blessed and broken the bread for them?

December 19 - The Birth Of Christ - Isaiah 7:10-16, 9:1-7, 11:1-10.

1. As prophesied by Isaiah, what government would be upon the shoulders of the Messiah?
2. According to Isaiah, how shall the Messiah judge?

December 26 - Christ Appears, Commissions, and Ascends - Luke 24:33-53.

1. Why were the eleven so frightened when Jesus appeared in the midst of them?
2. How did Jesus prove to the eleven that He was not a Spirit but had resurrected bodily from the grave?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1999**

December 5 - Stephen's Witness - Acts 6.

1. Why was Stephen able to do great wonders and miracles among the people?
2. What were those who disputed with Stephen not able to resist?

December 12 - Conversion of Saul - Acts 9:1-20.

1. Why can not everyone expect to have a conversion experience such as Saul's?
2. How can Ananias' acceptance of Saul as a fellow believer in Christ be an example for us today?

December 19 - Birth Of Christ - Isa. 9:6-7, Micah 5:1-4, Matt. 1:18-25, Isa. 7:13-14.

1. What is the meaning of the name "Jesus"?
2. How would you have responded to the situation if you were in Joseph's place?

December 26 - Diligence - II Peter 1:3-15.

1. Explain the meaning of the word "diligence".
2. How do we give "all diligence"?



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# BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

While Shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.

"Fear not!" said he; for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind,  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
To you and all mankind."

"To you, in David's town, this day  
Is born of David's line,  
The Savior, who is Christ the Lord;  
And this shall be the sign."

"The heav'nly babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing-bands,  
And in a manger laid."

"All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace:  
Good will henceforth from heav'n to men,  
Begin and never cease!"

-Nahum Tate



## THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD

There are many lessons connected with the Birth of Jesus. We have a sentimental attachment to the scenes of Bethlehem. We are impressed with the heavenly display seen by the shepherds. We associate with the shepherds as they leave their sheep to visit the Passover Lamb. We anticipate the later arrival of the wise men from the East. These events are all part of the Christmas story.

Before contemplating the scenes of Bethlehem, we must see the scenes of Nazareth. The archangel made two visits to Nazareth. The first visit was to Mary, the other to Joseph. To have an angel visit would be a wonderful event. The message that was borne to Mary was beyond the wildest dream of any one. Although all had the hope that the Messiah would soon come, none could begin to hope to be the one chosen to bear that divine being. Besides they expected Him to come as a king not a babe. Their concept of how God would visit and deliver His people was at odds with God's own plan. The visit to Joseph was to confirm that the visit to Mary was a true revelation from God.

The message that she would be the mother of the Saviour was overwhelming to Mary. The suddenness of the angel's appearance excited her. The message was so great that it would have been difficult for her to comprehend what would be required of her. She thought of various disqualifications for fulfilling this calling. Men should always be aware of their shortcomings in the sight of God, but be ready to concede that God obviously knows best in calling

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them to the task He has for them. Mary was aware that she hardly could meet the requirements of this calling.

She was not married, only betrothed, to Joseph. How could she then be the mother of this Child? She very plainly declared that she had never known a man in that most intimate of all relationships. The archangel declared that the power of the Spirit of God would work the physical miracle of her pregnancy. This was necessary for the Holy Child to be born without the taint of human sin. A human father would have produced a child like any other child, born in sin. This Child was fathered by God. This was His Son. The miracle of the virgin conception is beyond our understanding.

This news was awesome to Mary. Then perhaps some doubts began to creep in about what this would mean in her daily life. She would be pregnant. Although a pregnancy may be looked forward to, it remains a difficult time for many mothers-to-be. There may be a great deal of physical discomfort. There can be awkwardness. Her bloated body may make it difficult for her go about her ordinary tasks of life. She may face various physical risks associated with pregnancy. While Mary was young and healthy, there still would have been an element of discomfort and fear that might have kept her from this service.

The social implications of her pregnancy might have been even more daunting to Mary. She was betrothed to Joseph. While this provided a certain amount of freedom for them, still to have become pregnant at that time would have brought gossip and finger-pointing. She might have thought about Joseph's reaction. He might think that she had been unfaithful to him. What would he do about it? Would he charge her in public with her unfaithfulness? Would he hate her?

Despite all of these possible excuses, she yielded herself to the Lord's use and plan. She said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." Although she did not understand all that God had for her, she was willing to be used as He saw best. She was willing although she might have physical discomfort and suffer social persecution. She yielded to Him so His plan and purpose might be carried out for the good of all who

have availed themselves of God's plan of salvation since its establishment.

This part of the Christmas story should touch each of our lives. Are we as willing to face the discomforts, persecutions, and humiliations of life as Mary was? Are we willing to do the will of God and serve our neighbor? In our strength and ability are we willing to become weak and incompetent so we may serve. Mary might have raised many objections to her service but she submitted as the handmaid of the Lord. Can we do any less?

As this Christmas season is upon us and we oft hear the story of the virgin birth, can we glean a lesson of yieldedness from it, that we may in the new year be better prepared to serve our God and our neighbor?

Are you the Lord's servant? Are you as willing as Mary to do what He would ask of you?

M.C.Cook

## **IS JESUS CHRIST GOD?**

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS." Matthew 1:23-25.

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ." Galatians 1:6-7.

We are once again in that season of the year when many throughout the world will observe a day known as Christmas. Strangely enough, there will be those who are a part of the earthly church who refuse to recognize this day while the vast majority of those outside of the church will celebrate the day. Unfortunately, the day will be for many a time of drunken reveling and immoral acts. Much of this ungodly behavior will begin the night before. Within the churches the day will be observed by many with canta-



tas and plays, which, in our humble opinion, replaces worship with entertainment.

Amidst all of the gala activity there remains a much more important question. Is Jesus Christ God? Or to put it another way, which Jesus is being worshipped on this day by the multitudes?

Often those who make the greatest hullabaloo of this day are the same ones who deny that Jesus Christ was virgin born. The very foundation of the true Gospel is found in this Scriptural truth. While the birth of Christ is not directly related to our salvation, it establishes who it was that died for our sins by shedding that precious blood on Calvary's cross and then arose victoriously from the grave to assure our final resurrection.

If Jesus Christ was but a man, as many teach today, we are without a Saviour and have no hope beyond this life. Is it any wonder that many within the church only gather for fellowship and pleasure? For many there is very little difference between gathering at a meetinghouse for "worship" and being a part of a civic club or a fraternal organization.

If Jesus Christ is only "a god" as the Jehovah Witnesses teach and their "bible" proclaims, then He is a false god. In Exodus 20:4 we read, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." A study of Holy Scripture will reveal the plain fact that having other gods before Jehovah God meant recognizing any other god at all. This same Jehovah God proclaimed in Isaiah 43:11, "I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior."

So we see how very important it is that we declare without apology that Jesus Christ is God. While there are those who delegate the teaching of the Holy Trinity to a Roman Catholic dogma, without this Scriptural truth we are without an explanation of who Jesus Christ is.

Another teaching very similar to that of the Jehovah Witnesses is that Jesus became "a god" through human effort. That he was a son of God even as all of humankind are sons and daughters of God and that we can all become gods by our efforts. This movement, which seems to be becoming more popular as time goes by, is known as the New Age Movement. They also teach that Jesus of Nazareth was not the Christ of the Bible but that another Christ

will appear. The loss of the term "the Only Begotten Son of God" in sermons, writings and even more "bible" translations is a sign of the acceptance of this false movement.

While we are grateful that our ministers are encouraged to proclaim who Jesus Christ is, we would appreciate hearing the term God the Son more often. Also while we recognize that the proclamation that Jesus Christ is the Son of God is to be taken as meaning a capital "S", this may be clearer by using the biblical term "only begotten."

We respect those of our number who follow the old Brethren practice of not observing Christmas in any manner as well as those who choose another day to observe it. For the majority of us we would hope that the gala activities of the world would not influence us on this or any other day. We, personally, see nothing wrong with family gatherings with good food.

Brother James M. Hite  
816 E. Birch St.  
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

## **WHERE ARE THE WATCHMEN?**

Hebrews 13:8-9a, "Jesus Christ (is) the same yesterday, and to day, and forever. Be not carried about with diverse and strange doctrines."

In this day of strange teachings in Christian churches, we must ask a sorrowful question: Where are the prophetic voices calling the church of Jesus Christ back to the simplicity and purity of the Gospel? Where are the watchmen?

How easily we, as the flock of Christ, become confused and blinded to our true spiritual state and to the dangers and compromises we have fallen into.

The danger is that the leaven of another gospel will slowly leaven the whole lump of dough. Unless God rises up prophetic voices with the courage and will to cry out against deception, the flock may never even realize what has taken place.

This "leavening" has been a problem since the days of the Christ Himself. It continued into the apostolic era; it has been present in

each century since, and it continues unabated today.

In Matthew 16:6, Jesus warned His disciples, "...Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees." Jesus was concerned that they would take the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees and mix them with His own teachings. As a result, the gospel He was entrusting to them would have been lost.

The most prominent example of "leaven" in the early church happened at the church in Galatia. After the Apostle Paul preached the pure gospel there, false teachers came and taught that circumcision was necessary to be a good Christian.

The issue may seem rather small to us today. After all, circumcision is not a bad thing, and may even be a good thing. Surely much could have been said to promote it in the churches. It was a long-standing mark of separation from the idolatrous, wicked Gentiles. It was a sign of the covenant that had been long used among the people of God. What could be better than to adopt it as a standard for use by the newly formed Christian churches?

Such may have been the reasoning of the Galatian Christians as they listened to the Judaizers teach the need for circumcision. Submitting to the painful ritual must have even seemed like a blessing and a newer level of commitment to God and to holiness.

When the Apostle Paul heard about their "improved" gospel - his gospel plus circumcision - how did he react? Did he say that they had a spiritually based, time-honored principle that all Christians should now follow? Did he commend them for their efforts to find ways to show their separation from the world? Did he tell them that the Holy Spirit had led them as a church to add this new teaching to the gospel?

Paul's letter to the Galatians must have come as a rude shock. In Galatians 1:6-9, the apostle penned these fiery words: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be



accursed."

Paul told them that the gospel plus their "good" idea was no gospel at all! Further, he says twice that anyone preaching this perverted gospel is accursed! The Greek word here (anathema) can also be translated "eternally condemned!" If anyone preaches a mixed gospel, the Apostle says, let him be eternally condemned!

An issue that may seem rather minor to us today was in fact a perversion of the gospel, to such an extent that it was no longer the gospel at all. They had sacrificed the gospel for their "good" idea.

Later in his letter, Paul tells the Galatians, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." (Galatians 5:7-9)

The requirement of circumcision - that seemed so godly and so right in promoting separation and distinctness for God's people - did not come from the God who called them to salvation. It was in fact a dangerous leaven that could spread like a cancer through the body of Christ.

In every age, carnal and fleshly men have always tried to preach the gospel plus the "good" ideas of fallen man. And the word from heaven to them is the same message that Paul gave to the Galatians - if we or even an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one and only gospel of Jesus Christ, let him be eternally condemned!

Through the ages of church history, God has raised up His servants to call the churches back to the purity of the gospel. At times they paid a high price, often in their blood, and always in the sweat and tears of their prayers. Men such as John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, John Hus, and a vast multiple of others were willing to stand for the Word of God, and the one and only gospel of Jesus, no matter the cost. They could do nothing else.

For each John Wycliffe and William Tyndale and John Hus, there were doubtlessly many more who saw the truth, but were unwilling to pay the price to stand up for it. They were the ones who were willing to sacrifice the gospel itself, so they did not have to sacrifice their social standing, or their place in the corrupt church of that day. Most however were not able even to see the real is-

sues, and what was at stake.

God raised up men such as Wycliffe, Tyndale, Hus, and many others, so that the church could be awakened from its deadly slumber. In every age and today, God calls His servants to be prophetic voices to the church and to the world, if only they will walk closely with Him, hear His voice, and obey His call.

Where are the prophetic voices calling the church of Jesus Christ back to the simplicity and purity of the Gospel? Where are the watchmen?

Brother Dean Shaffer

## SERENITY

Luke 2

Quietly sleeping on this day, in a manger filled with hay,  
A new born Baby lay.  
Mary's heart was filled with joy as she watched her Baby Boy,  
Resting there.  
Slowly creeping up the sky, spilling brightness near and far,  
Shone a Star.  
Chasing darkness far away, brilliantly it's beam did shine,  
On the night.  
On Bethlehem's green hills afar, startled shepherds stirred and gazed,  
At the sight.  
Multitudes of Angels sang, choruses of joy proclaimed, singing  
Of good will.  
Simple hearted shepherds true, all of humble birth were they, yet  
Believing still.  
In trust they left their flocks of sheep upon the hillside slope,  
Their minds were filled with awe and fear, their hearts with  
Love and Hope.  
They hastened to obey the word, the Heavenly Host,  
Did bring.  
And journeyed on to Bethlehem, to see the new-born King!

Mary's Joseph, staunch and true, although awake the whole night through,  
Still...her husband by the door...sat alert.

So no evil would befall, his beloved ones to hurt.

How he wished that he could bring gifts of gold and riches rare,

As a home, a palace fair, far away from toil and care.

"How could it ever be?" reasoned he, "That the best home I could  
find,

Was this stable small and crude, with company poor and  
rude?"

Hark! a song he heard, wafting on the morning air,

Clearly sounding as a bell, yet so sweet and fair.

Heavenly chorus thrilled his dreams, was it just a vision then...

That he saw?

Humble shepherds at the manger, kneeling down in awe!

"We have heard glad tidings, now, for all kith and kin!

That a king is born this day to deliver us from sin!

Echoes came from hills afar, "Peace on earth, good will to men!"

How his heart stirred in his breast, calmed his thoughts and all unrest.

Joseph bowed his head in prayer for this lesson he was taught.

God's Spirit dwells in trusting hearts, ever filled with humble  
thoughts.

Sister Maxine Surbey

## **JESUS IS BETTER**

Santa lives at the North Pole...

JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh...

JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year...

JESUS is an ever present help.



Santa fills your stockings with goodies...  
JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited...  
JESUS stands at your door and knocks,  
and then enters your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa...  
JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap...  
JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is  
"Hi, little boy or girl, what's your name?"...  
JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does  
He know our name, He knows our address, too. He  
knows our history and future and He even knows  
how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...  
JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...  
JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says, "You better not cry"...  
JESUS says, "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you.

Santa's little helpers make toys...  
JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts,  
repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but...  
JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree...  
JESUS becomes our gift and died on a tree,  
It's obvious there is really no comparison.

We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about  
We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas,  
Jesus is still the reason for the season.

Yes, Jesus is better, He is even better than Santa Claus.  
Selected by Brother Roger Swihart

## PEACE

D. W. Hostetler

It is of infinite importance that we live for the best things. (Phil. 4:8) Peace is one of the most cherished things in life, for it brings confidence, harmony, mutual concern, and good will, and to live for peace will enable us to live for each other's welfare. This is true with individuals, in families, in the Church, and in nations.

The titles applied to Christ in Isa. 9:6 show His greatness and that He is the Prince of Peace. In Luke 3:14 John tells the soldiers, "Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely." In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus has some very important statements on the subject of peace.

In Matt. 5:38-44, Jesus directly refuses the old law "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" by saying "Resist not evil, but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also" and "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." (See Luke 23:34, Acts 7:60, I Cor. 4:12, I Peter 2:23.) So the way to peace is by the way of love.

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." The teaching is clear in this text that the servants of Christ will not fight. (John 18:36) In this connection we may read John 14:27:

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." The peace Jesus gave to the world is through reconciliation with God by the remission of sin, which is all worked out through love. The world is trying to bring peace with the sword, but Jesus brought peace through love.

If the nations of the world would learn two things and then live them, war would cease. The first is found in Luke 6:31: "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." (See also Matt. 7:12). The second is found in Matt. 22:39: "...love thy neighbour as thyself."

In II Cor. 10:4 Paul says: "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)" That the Christian is not to bear weapons of carnal warfare is taught in this text. But he is to put on the whole armor of God as outlined in Eph. 6:11-18. (verse 12) "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Our warfare is not carnal but spiritual, for it is a battle against sin and the Devil.

In Heb. 12:14 we are told to: "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Rom. 12:18: "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." V.19: "...avenge not yourselves..." V. 20: "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head."

In chapter 13 we are told "...thou shalt not kill...", "...Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.", "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour..." Chapter 12 V. 21 says "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

In Luke 2:14 we have that great proclamation of the Angels to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

If the leaders of the nations of earth would embrace the spirit, virtues, and qualities of the Prince of Peace, then there would be good will from man to man, and people would live for each other. Let us live to bring about peace between God and man, between



man and man, and between the nations of earth.

Selected from December 15, 1939  
Bible Monitor

## REAL PRAYING

How do we, as humans, approach the God of the universe? How do we talk to the God who made us who we are, and made everything we see? Is there a way to have a conversation with Him without feeling intimidated? Yes, there is. He has so patiently taught me how, and has given me a model to follow.

“OUR FATHER...” As heaven is high above the earth, so is your title far above the kings of the world. I call You Father because it is a personal way in showing You a very special relationship of honor and reverence. Being a father means showing tenderness, concern, watchfulness, and kindness. It means providing for our needs and protecting us. Lord God, I see this in my earthly father, but how much more do I see these attributes in You? I acknowledge that You are an omnipotent God who provides everything I need and keeps my life in Your hand. You are the perfect example in which I long to pattern my life after.

“HALLOWED BE THY NAME...” Isn't it true that to hallow means to make holy? I believe so. Just as my dad deserves respect and gratitude from me, so You are truly worthy of the honor and respect due to Your position. Moses was refused the chance to see the Promised Land because he called the Israelites attention away from You. This portrays the fact that You will not share my affections and devotion. All of my worship is to be given directly to You.

“THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN...” Lord, Your will is my ultimate goal. Only You can give sufficient and lasting provisions. I am positive that Your will is perfect, and I believe that Your will is for none to perish. I pray that You will carry out this will in my life with the perfection that is done in Heaven.

“GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD...” This becomes so real in my every day life. You provide for me on a daily basis. Thank-You for the fact that I can come to You with my supplication, whether it is big or small. I love the way I can come to You with any

problem, and know that it matters to You. Keep my requests humble, and keep me content with what I have.

**"FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS..."** I am so grateful that You have forgiven my sins, Lord. What a wonderful gift! If the blood of bulls and goats could roll back the Israelites sins, how much more does Your own blood sanctify and forgive me?! I pray that I can show this same forgiveness to those around me. No matter what they do to me, I want to remember the fact that You loved me enough to forgive me, and that I should willingly forgive others.

**"LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL..."** Lord, I have searched for leadership from the best sources the world has to offer, only to be disappointed. Yet when I turn to You, I find the fulfillment that has been there all the time. You do not lead me into temptation, but into perfect deliverance. You show me Your protection in every way, and I am truly grateful.

**"FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY..."** You are the Lord of lords, the Prince of peace. All the honor and glory and praise belongs to You. I read the story of Job, how You questioned him and showed him that You are powerful, and I stand in amazement. I cannot make the waters stay in their boundaries, or let the lightning blaze across the sky, but I know that You can! You are the Author and Finisher of my faith, Lord, and You deserve every ounce of respect and honor I can give You.

**"FOREVER..."** Just the thought of spending forever with You makes me so happy. I do not think I will ever comprehend what "forever" really means, but I do know that I will be in Your presence. I also know that I will have everything needed for praising You. I will be singing a song reserved just for me, for the sole purpose of praising You. Until that day, with joy I will carry on.

**"AMEN"** May it be so.

God, I truly believe that this prayer You have given Your people to pray was not meant to be merely repeated as a ritual, but to be thought out; to be patterned after; to be personalized. Help me to follow Your example; not so that I can try to manipulate You, but so that I can give You the reverence You deserve.

Sister Allison Jane Dutter

## RESISTANCE TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Acts 4:1-22

In this passage, we begin to see a little excitement among the early church! Immediately after the healing of the lame man at the temple in the Name of Jesus through Peter, the captain of the temple guard showed up and arrested them, and put them in jail over night. But in one sense, it was too late, because Peter had preached his message to the people at the temple who had witnessed the healing, and the Word says many believed! In fact, about five thousand men believed that day! What a revival! (And no wonder the Sadducees were excited - they were in danger of losing their entire system of religion!)

The next day, there was supposed to be a trial with Peter and John as defendants for disturbing the peace. Note that all the "head honchos" were at the meeting (trial) of the Sanhedrin - Annas, Caiaphas, and many others. Peter did not look at this occasion as an annoyance or hindrance; instead, Peter looked on this occasion as an opportunity. When asked by what power (or in whose authority) he had done this thing, he was filled with the Holy Ghost, and began preaching the Gospel to the very Sanhedrin that had ordered Jesus to be arrested and killed!

Yes, this was the same Peter who had denied ever knowing Jesus in front of the servant girl just a few weeks before! Now He was boldly proclaiming the Name of Jesus and the resurrection in front of the Sanhedrin - the top seventy leaders of the Jewish religion!

Carefully note Peter's message. It was not very long (verses 8-12). He answered their question: the lame person was healed by the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Peter pointed out that they were the ones responsible for killing Him. He also mentioned that God had raised Jesus from the dead, and it was in His Name that the lame man was healed. Peter quoted from Isaiah 28:16 - Old Testament Scripture - which the Pharisees and Sadducees respected. He plainly told them that there was no salvation available anywhere else or from anyone else except in the Name of Jesus! He went straight to the point!

The members of the Sanhedrin were "bumfazzled." They mar-



veled, and they looked at the lame man standing there with Peter and John. They could not argue with the fact that he was healed. When they finally found their voices, they put Peter and John and the lame person out of the room so they could confer with each other about what to do. They then called them back in, and commanded them not to speak at all or to teach in the Name of Jesus any more!

Here we have the very famous words of Peter and John: "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." This is not something we should emulate lightly or casually. But when we must do it, we need to do it with deliberate resolve, knowing we may be called into question for our actions.

**Summary Thought . . .** What kind of potential power do we Christians have when we are "filled with the Holy Ghost?" Can God use us like He used Peter?

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

## **MAN'S WICKEDNESS, GOD'S PUNISHMENT, THE DEAD SEA**

How can a title like the one on this article be tied together to teach us a lesson, a profound lesson, from God to man for thousands of years?

Twice in my life I had the privilege of visiting the Holy Lands in the middle east, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Greece in the years 1969 and again in 1974.

It was quite a long trip, and my health was not the best, so I passed up several tours because I did not have an affirmative answer from Heaven that I should go and take my thirteen year old daughter. People tried to scare me from going. When the Lord said "Go" I knew He would be with us all the way.

What wonderful trips they were, never to be forgotten in this life, and possibly not in the life to come. Our group of travelers on the first trip were about all from our home vicinity. That made the

trip more interesting to travel with people we knew.

The Holy Spirit had warned me concerning idols and idol worship. The trip made me realize why He gave me that warning. By the time we came home I had the answer to that question. The penalty and judgment of God came because of man's sins in the past to serve to warn the people here and now.

We took many slide pictures, which we showed and explained in a number of places after we returned home. I especially showed the ones that portrayed the judgments of God for wickedness. This was to be a warning for the people watching the slides to prepare for the judgment day.

We visited the Dead Sea on both trips. We stood on the shore of the Dead Sea and looked out over a great expanse of water fed by the Jordan River, but has no outlet. It occupies a fault in the earth forty-seven miles long by ten miles wide. It has cliffs that rise 1500 to 2500 feet on either shore. The top surface of the water is 1290 feet below sea level and it is 1290 feet deep at the lowest water point. They told us that the water is twenty-seven percent mineral. Because of this, the Dead Sea is the most valuable spot on earth. At the south end they have a fertilizer plant where the minerals are separated, put into fertilizer and so forth. The dead Sea is Israel's eastern border. It is the earth's lowest surface.

Only the Jordan River feeds the Dead Sea which has no outlet except evaporation. It is an uncomfortable place to spend much time. The temperature may rise to a 120°. The water is warm and the stones may burn the soles of the bare feet of those who venture into the water when they step out onto the hot stones. People do not live there. To get there we went down, down, down among sand dunes and desert. Magnesium bromide is plentiful in the water which prevents any life, fish or plants to exist.

Why is there such an unusual place on this beautiful earth that God created. It was not always that way. It is that way because man sinned. God wrote the ten commandments in permanent stone that were not to be disobeyed or separated. Matthew 5:17. If they disobeyed there would be a penalty for sin, especially for His people.

After they found that the pasture was not plentiful enough for Abraham's and Lot's great herds of cattle, Abraham suggested to

Lot that they divide the territory. Abraham, being the kind person he was, gave his nephew, Lot, first choice. Lot chose the beautiful green plain to the east for his cattle, where the wicked city Sodom was located. So he pitched his tent toward Sodom, until he and his family were actually living in Sodom. His family not only lived in Sodom but they became friends of the Sodomites and married among them. Some writers seem to believe that Lot was one of the rulers of the city. It appears that Lot and his family became so involved in Sodom that Lot and Abraham did not have the close relationship that they had formerly enjoyed. This illustrates what happens when God's people become too involved with wicked people.

God decided to kill the wicked people of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them up in a fire of bitumen and sinking them into the earth and covering them with water to be a witness unto all people who disobey God. As I stood on the shore of that sea of devastation, the Holy Spirit kept showing and reminding me of my duty when I got back home to tell people, or to show pictures about what the wrath of God did to this wicked place and will do to us too, if we do likewise. It seems as though sometimes God lets wickedness take care of itself, but when it takes God's people the devil is tramping in another territory and God rescues them if they will let Him.

This scene did not seem to affect other people as it did me. They were having a pleasure trip. I showed my pictures a number of different places. How much good I did I do not know. I tried to awaken people to the fact that God is still alive and awake. Our judgment is yet to come, so I hope this will help them now.

Let us be obedient. When He says "Do" then do it. When he says "Do not" then refrain from doing it obediently without complaint. Judgment is surely ahead and we will be facing the final judgment of justice for good or bad. May God be able to say of us "Thou good and faithful servant." He knows all about us, even our thoughts. Our judgment will be a just judgment and sentence. Are we spending our time, talents and money to please God and to help those we can help to a blessed everlasting eternity?

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## NOAH'S ARK

Everything you need to know you can get from Noah's Ark story:

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Don't forget that we're all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something. REALLY big.
5. Don't listen to critics, just get on with what has to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Two heads are better than one.
9. Speed isn't always an adventure; the snails were on board with the cheetahs.
10. When you're stressed, float awhile.
11. Remember that the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.
12. Remember that woodpeckers inside are a larger threat than the storm outside.
13. No matter the storm, when you're on with God there's a rainbow waiting.

Selected by Brother Roy Litfin

## BEING PRODUCTIVE IN THE WORK OF THE LORD

John 15:8, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

Never miss an opportunity to speak for Jesus. We are His ambassadors. If you work in sales, you represent your company, not just on the job, but twenty-four hours a day. Likewise, we preach Jesus Christ.

In the 1920's in China there occurred the "Gospel Shirts" Movement. College students who had been converted wore long, flowing, white shirts with gospel messages on them. The message they wore was a reminder of how they must behave before the

world. They were told, "No one can wear a gospel shirt unless they can live up to the message."

We can say the same thing about our plain clothes. We wear them to be a witness. Yet it takes more than just our appearance. I have talked to many folks in our area, in which plain people are a common sight, and they do not know what the plain clothes signify. They need to be told, and we need to be the ones to tell them.

Bearing much fruit is our first line of business as Christians. The fact is, if we are truly children of His, we will not be able to be quiet about it. We will be filled to overflowing with His love, and the over-flow will benefit others.

There is no need to be afraid of the reaction of others. God will take care of us. The Bible tells us, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:10) Persecution comes as a result of telling the good news of salvation to others. If we are not being persecuted, it is probably because we are not telling others about Jesus Christ.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
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## DO'S AND DON'TS OF TRACT DISTRIBUTION

Occasionally, people ask us at **Bible Helps** about the "do's and don'ts of distributing tracts. They wish to spread the gospel message, but they are sensitive about leaving a poor witness, and they don't want to disobey the law. This is a commendable attitude. I have also received questions about this subject from within our fold. So following is a list of some "how-to's" and "how-not-to's" concerning tract distribution which we have gleaned over the years. While the following does not address specific details, I hope it can be helpful.

**DO** pray over the tracts before you leave home.

**DON'T** give a tract to every person you meet. Use discernment.

**DO** ask God for the leading of the Holy Spirit to guide you.

- DON'T** leave tracts lying in public or business places.
- DO** choose your tracts carefully so they will be helpful to those who receive them.
- DON'T** put tracts or any other materials into mail boxes. (This is against the law.) You may only place tracts in the mail inside a properly addressed and stamped envelope.
- DO** be prepared to follow up with explanation and counseling based on the Word of God.
- DON'T** distribute tracts in parking lots or shopping malls without asking the owner's or manager's permission.
- DO** greet each person with a smile.
- DON'T** litter with your tracts!
- DO** ask permission before distributing tracts.
- DON'T** place the tracts where they can blow around in the wind and litter the neighborhood.
- DO** follow the leading of the Lord.

Brother Bob Lehigh

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### THE GREATEST GIFT

John 3:16

"Oh! Oh!" exclaimed the five year old twins, Melvin and Merlin, as they eyed the gaily wrapped gift Aunt Minnie had given Grandpa.

Grandpa took the package in his hand. He held it to his ear, gently shaking it. "No, it doesn't rattle," he said. He balanced it on his hand. "No, it's not very heavy, either. It's not large enough for a shirt or a sweater." He scratched his head in perplexity, "What could it be?"

"Hurry and open it, Grandpa, then you will find out what it is!" said the boys as they jumped up and down in their excitement.

Grandpa cut the ribbon and slowly tore off the wrappings. It was a book! Grandpa reached in his pocket for his glasses, perched them on the bridge of his nose and read the title, "Children's Stories for Grandparents to Read Out Loud."



"Read us a story, now, Grandpa," exclaimed the twins. When the twins were comfortably settled in his lap, Grandpa leafed through the book till he found a Christmas story.

### THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Some children are taught that if they aren't good, obedient boys and girls, Santa Claus won't give them any gift at Christmas. They try extra hard a few weeks before to prove themselves worthy of their desired gifts. They look forward to a brightly lighted Christmas tree and hang up their stockings by the fireplace for Santa to fill when he slides down the chimney, Christmas Eve for his mid-night visit.

When I was a young boy, I always felt sorry for the poor children at this time of the year. Many of them were worthy of good gifts, but somehow, Santa passed them by. They were so disappointed because they saw that the children of wealthy parents were given many costly gifts whether they were good little boys or not.

"But that's not fair!" exclaimed Melvin.

"No, it isn't," agreed Grandpa, "but Santa Claus is just a myth - not a real person, neither do Christmas trees, which originated as a heathen custom, many years ago, have anything to do with the true meaning of Christmas."

"What great event do we celebrate on Christmas Day," asked Grandpa.

"It was the birthday of Baby Jesus!" said Melvin.

"Yes, God gave us the best gift of all when He sent His Son to earth to teach us how to live a righteous life. He left the rich courts of Heaven and was born in a humble stable and laid in a manger, for a bed. Angels came to humble shepherds on the hillside. They told of the birth of God's Son, our Saviour, then left singing, 'Glory to God in the Highest, Peace on earth, Good Will to men!'"

The shepherds left their sheep and hurried to see this Christ Child and worshipped Him. Wise men from the East followed a Star, which led them to the place where the Child Jesus was. They brought gifts and worshipped Him.

Jesus grew up to be a great teacher, whose teachings are recorded in the Bible, God's word. Jesus gave His life on the cross

that all men, rich and poor, alike might have salvation.

Some day if we accept His plan of salvation, we can live with Him for He rose from the dead and went to Heaven to prepare a home for us so we can dwell with Him forever!

God's gift to us was the priceless gift of His Son, Jesus, given to all men.

Our gift to Him should be our heart's devotion and a dedicated life in service to Him.

We need to ACCEPT the gift. OPEN God's Word, READ it. LOVE and OBEY its teachings.

Christmas is....

Remembering the Love

Of our Saviour above,

Who came to earth to teach man,

That they can live on,

After this life is gone,

When they live by His perfect plan.

Poem by Irene Stout

Sister Maxine Surbey

## **BIBLE STORIES**

### **THE NIGHT THE ANGELS SANG**

One night nearly two thousand years ago some shepherds were watching over their flocks of sheep at night. They were in the hill country near a little town called Bethlehem. I suppose they were sitting around a fire getting warm because the nights get chilly there. They could have been talking about the Savior that God had promised to send into the world. Suddenly, there was a great light all around them. An angel appeared unto them telling them that a baby was born over in the little town of Bethlehem. This baby was the Savior, which is Christ the Lord, and they were to find the babe in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes. All at once there was a multitude of angels praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." I think the angels filled the sky all around the shepherds. I wish I could have

been there and seen and heard the angels too, don't you?

After the angels were gone the shepherds started for Bethlehem. We don't know exactly how they found the right place but the Bible says they came with haste and found the baby Jesus lying in a manger just like the angel said. A manger is a place where they put hay for the animals to eat. Joseph must have made a nice little nest in the hay and after Mary had wrapped the baby in some blankets they laid the baby Jesus in the manger.

After the shepherds had seen the baby Jesus, they told everyone they met about the angels and the baby in the manger. "And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

Here is a song about Jesus that you likely know. If you don't, ask your mother to sing it for you.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.  
The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes:  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Brother Rudy Cover

## THE BOY AND THE MAN

J. H. Moore  
Fighting Snakes

Early in the spring the snakes made their appearance, and in the way of numbers they excelled all other living creatures. One April morning, after the grass had been burnt off the prairie, and the warm sun shone out brightly, father, with a stick in hand, and accompanied by myself, took a walk over that part of the prairie near our home. We then had no Sunday-schools or meetings in our community. On this walk we had the time of our lives killing



snakes. It seemed that every snake was out for a sun bath. Father disposed of the large ones, while I dispatched the smaller fellows. I often heard my father tell some of his neighbors that we killed one hundred snakes on that walk, and that it was not a very good morning for snakes either. Well, I got my hand in at fighting snakes and in this way developed an early disposition to master the forces opposing me. I was always ready to tackle the largest reptile that crossed my path. I became so venturesome that my father deemed it necessary to reprimand me for my recklessness. After all, fighting snakes was not such a bad training for a boy. It developed an element of skill, alertness, determination and heroism. A boy of six or seven years, on killing a snake five or six feet long, felt as proud over his achievement as Roosevelt ever felt after shooting a Rocky Mountain lion.

The country settled up rapidly, mainly by Virginians. Most of the people were well pleased with Illinois. But some grew homesick, often consoling themselves by singing "Carry me back to old Virginia once more."

Two years passed and no religious services had yet been held in the community by the Brethren. My parents and three others were the only members of this church in the country. Finally arrangements were perfected for preaching. What a time my mother had getting her four children well enough dressed to take to meeting! I had an old wool hat that was as much at home in my pocket as on my head. This she washed, starched and ironed until it was as sleek and stiff as a laundered shirt. As for the starch, it made my Sunday-go-to-meeting hat look almost like a piece of brown and white marble. Everybody in all the regions round about went to that meeting. Several of them made the good confession and were baptized.

Later on a church was organized and men were called to the ministry. Among the number was James R. Gish. Then we had meetings. Finally a preacher named John Gish came upon the scene. He was six feet tall, possible more, weighed about three hundred pounds, and in the pulpit was a genuine son of thunder. He had a voice like a lion, and yet it was full of melody. As a boy often thinks, he was my ideal of a preacher. I had not learned to care especially for what the preacher said, but I did like the noise,

and the more noise he could make, the greater the preacher. In those days babies were not considered a discredit, and there were lots of them. On Sunday they were all brought to meeting. The strong voice of John Gish sometimes frightened some of the babies, and the more the babies cried, the louder he preached. That struck me as heroic. As I viewed it, the preacher who could not make more noise than a few babies was not much of a preacher.

### Fighting Fire

In the fall of the year, when the grass was dry, and sometimes in the spring, destructive fires, fanned by strong breezes, often swept across the extensive prairies. On one of these occasions in the spring, when mother was alone with the children, we saw a great cloud of smoke in the distance. The prairie was on fire, and the strong wind was rushing the fire in the direction of our home. Mother had had no experience with prairie fires, and to her the long line of fire, leaping at times high in the air, meant nothing short of destruction. The tall grass came almost up to our house and it seemed that there was no way of saving the building and what little we had, to say nothing of our lives. Looking in the direction opposite the fire, two men were seen approaching our house as rapidly as their horses could carry them. In a little while they were on the spot, and, jumping from their foaming animals, asked mother if she had some fire in the store, and if so, to bring a shovelful. Running to the side of the house, toward which the fire was sweeping, they threw the shovel of live coals into the grass, and then commenced with boards, beating out the part of the fire next to the house and letting the other part burn, so as to form a backburn. Mother and the older children caught on to the idea, new to all of us, and like heroes, struggling for life and the preservation of our home, we fought fire for all there was in us. Soon a good burn had been made around our premises, and when the great fire came up, it swept past and left our home unharmed. The way my mother thanked those strangers for the aid they had rendered must have done their souls good. When the danger was all over they rode away, and that is the last we ever saw of them. To me, this was a lesson in fighting prairie fires that I never forgot, and for me it served an excellent purpose later in life.

## STATEMENT

The following statement was adopted at the conclusion of the Leadership Conference held at Dallas Center, Iowa, November 18-20, 1999.

### MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

1. To implement our vision we first must examine ourselves, confess and repent of any possible sin and sinful attitudes.
2. We recognize that we have a great need to grow in our understanding of the Scriptural concept of unity and that we need to diligently and vigorously pursue this unity.
3. As we seek God's direction for the future, we encourage all to be respectful of our past and the traditions and customs that have developed in our family of believers.
4. As the world and the issues of society around the Church changes, we believe that a Scriptural Church will seek to understand the present needs of her membership and will provide a sound spiritual response to the issues of every age.
5. We encourage our members to be visionary by asking God to give them areas of outreach and ministry utilizing their spiritual gifts.

Individuals should seek confirmation through Godly counsel.

6. We implore members, individually and collectively, to restore damaged relationships. In addition, we should restore, where possible, alienated members. Finally, we encourage members to restore a proper understanding of church authority.
7. May fathers, as leaders of their homes, be accountable in teaching and training Biblical values. Our homes, marriages and families must be the model of Christianity to the world.
8. We recommend a vigorous effort to produce new printed materials addressing many areas of belief and practice or lifestyle. Tracts and pamphlets can help build convictions in the membership as well as being used in an outreach to the unsaved. These printed materials need to be current in style and attractive in appearance. We need an introduction pamphlet to introduce visitors and other inquirers to our church.



## NEWS ITEM

### SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation is planning a Spring Revival the third week of March 2000 with Bro. Frank Shaffer as evangelist. Services each evening at 7:30 and on Sunday. There will not be any Lovefeast. We appreciate our visitors.

We had a really enjoyable Revival in August 1999 with Bro. Jim Meyers of Dallas Center, Iowa, who broke the Word of God very wisely and plainly every sermon. Eighteen surrounded the Lord's table. There were no converts, but two have come in by letter since. During the meeting Brethren and Sisters came from seven congregations. We appreciated their visits. Come again and bring others with you.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

### MINISTERIAL LIST CORRECTION

The correct telephone area code for Bro. James Eberly is 717. FEBRUARY ISSUE UPDATE

It is time for corrections, additions and deletions to be sent to the Editor, so the February issue may be as complete and correct as possible. Please send all changes by January 15, 2000. Thank You.

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 2000

January 2 - To All Who Are Called To Be Saints - Romans 1:1-15.

1. Why did Paul write his letter to the Romans?
2. What spiritual gifts did Paul want to impart to the Romans?

January 9 - Without Excuse - Romans 1:16-23.

1. Why was Paul not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ?
2. How is it possible to "hold the truth in unrighteousness?"

January 16 - Worshipping And Serving The Creature - Romans 1:24-32.

1. How could we be worshipping and serving the creature more than the creator?

2. Instead of "being filled with all unrighteousness", what should we be filled with?

January 23 - God's Judgment: According To Truth, Without Partiality - Romans 2:1-16.

1. Compare the judgment of God with the judgment of man.
2. In what day will God judge the secrets of men?

January 30 - The Law Produces Lawbreakers - Romans 2:17-24.

1. Why must a teacher's actions agree with what he teaches?
2. How can our actions blaspheme the name of God?

### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 2000**

January 2 - The Beginning - Genesis 1, John 1:1-5.

1. Who was in the beginning with God?
2. What existed in eternity past, before the beginning?

January 9 - Paradise - Luke 23:39-43, II Cor. 12:1-4, Rev. 2:1-7.

1. Where is "the paradise of God"?
2. Who was Paul speaking about being "caught up into paradise?"

January 16 - Peace - Psalm 4:4-8, Luke 1:76-80, John 14:1-6, 27.

1. What is "the way of peace"?
2. What is the first step in having peace with God?

January 23 - The Ethiopian Eunuch - Acts 8:26-40.

1. Explain how Philip could preach Jesus and baptism using the Book of Isaiah.
2. What did Philip require of the Eunuch before baptizing him?

January 30 - The Carpenter's Son - Matt. 13:53-58, Mark 6:1-5.

1. Why did the people of His own country not understand that Jesus was more than a carpenter?
2. Why did not Jesus do many mighty works in His own country?

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